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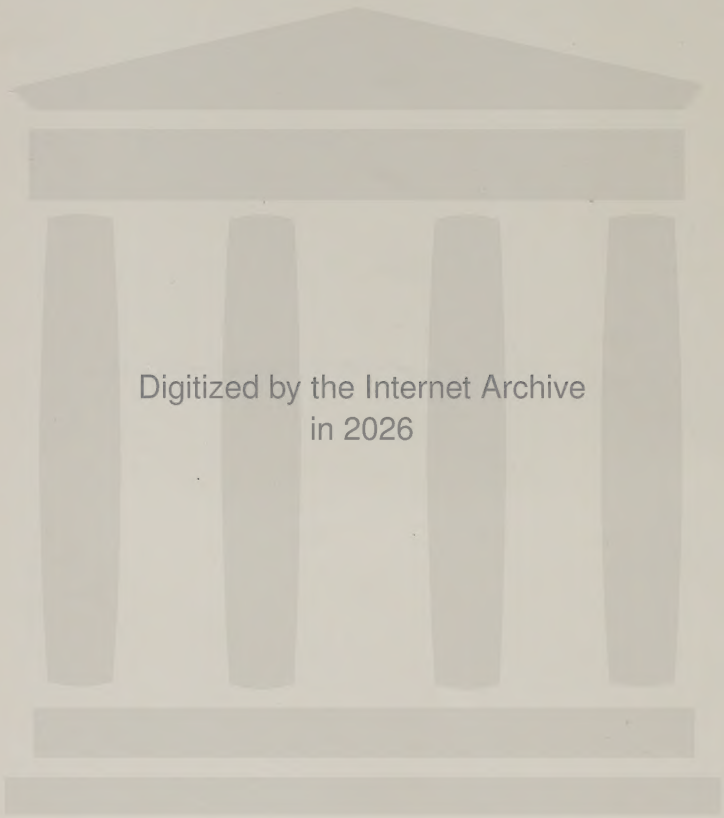
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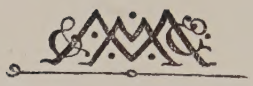
THE CORRESPONDENCE OF KING GEORGE THE THIRD

FROM 1760 TO DECEMBER 1783



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THE CORRESPONDENCE OF KING GEORGE THE THIRD

FROM 1760 TO DECEMBER 1783

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INTRODUCTION

THE present volume opens on the 1st of January 1778, a month after the arrival of the news of the disaster of Saratoga. The court of Versailles had at once offered to recognise the independence of the revolted American Colonies; and negotiations went forward which issued in the signature on the 6th of February of a treaty of alliance and commerce between the Colonies and France. The actual terms of the treaty were for some time unknown, but the certainty of approaching war with France was realised on the 4th of January (2147–2149), and was accepted very calmly by the King. He had "scrupulously attempted to avoid war": if France "without one single grievance chose to be the aggressor", his mind was perfectly prepared to meet the misfortune (2150). Meanwhile the raising of fresh regiments was proceeding actively (2144–2146, pp. 10, 11), and the Government flattered itself that it had not neglected to put the country into a state of preparation (p. 5). There were already apprehensions of immediate war with Spain also (2149, 2159), but these proved to be premature.

As is usual after any military mishap, there were disputes and recrimination as to the responsibility for the same, and the relations between Lord George Germain and Sir William Howe were so deeply strained that Howe had resigned his command. This was

embarrassing, for much had been expected from the brothers Howe in supreme naval and military command in America, and there was always the chance that the estrangement of the General might carry with it that of the Admiral also. Germain had already quarrelled with Carleton; he was now at variance with Howe; and indeed he seems to have been a man who could work kindly with no one. The King was divided in his mind as to whether the Minister or the General should retire. It would be difficult to find a successor to Howe, if Lord Amherst should (as was almost certain) decline the command (2152–2154, 2158). But, as the King pointed out, it was important first to decide upon the plan of campaign, in view of France's Alliance with the American Colonies, and then to appoint a Commander (2161). Amherst did excuse himself from service in America, to the great indignation of Germain (2162); but he formulated his opinion for the Cabinet that the operations in America must for the future be mainly naval, the military forces being content to hold certain posts only (2170), a course which had already been anticipated by the King (2161).

His Majesty's energy during this month of January was remarkable. He thought of everything—military operations, raising of new levies (in which latter affair he wisely placed the completing of the regular regiments before everything (2164)), the tactics to be pursued in Parliament (2161, 2163, 2164), and the chances of conciliating the Colonies (2161). And here it must be noted that the King, who is always supposed to have urged on the American War against all reason, declared that no man in England would be bold enough to treat with the Colonies upon the basis of their independence. It was not the King only but the Country that would never have endured such a thing. North was very anxious to make pacific propositions to the Colonies—

he had pledged himself to do so—but confessed himself hopeless of success without alienating his supporters in Parliament. It was easy enough to renounce the levying of positive taxes upon the Colonies, for practically this had been abandoned already; but how to tempt the Colonies to renounce their independence passed his understanding. He could make suggestions, but with little faith in them, and he thought, upon the whole, that he had better resign (2179).

The King answered gently and soberly (2182). He had warned North not to commit himself to any proposals for the conciliation of America, "not from any absurd ideas of unconditional submission [which] my mind never harboured", but simply because he had foreseen the difficulty of satisfying at the same time the American rebels and the English public. War with France was practically certain. It might be better to abandon all North America, excepting Canada, Nova Scotia and the Floridas, to raid the rebel coasts and to turn the main strength of the British arms against the French and Spanish West Indies. Then, when the Americans found that their new allies were suffering, they might be willing to listen to conciliatory suggestions, which the King by no means discouraged so long as they were properly thought out and brought forward at the right moment.

Meanwhile, on the 20th of January Parliament had met, and the Opposition had at once opened its attack by a series of violent motions. One member condemned the raising of troops by public subscription without consent of Parliament. Burke declaimed against the employment of Indians in the American War, a theme already taken up by Chatham in the Lords a few months earlier, and expanded in his most turgid style until he was reminded that he himself had sanctioned the employment of Indians against the French. Governor

Pownall, who understood American affairs better than any one else, declared outright that any attempt to exclude the Indians from the struggle was "dangerous, delusive nonsense"; but that was no reason why Burke should not discourse upon it at length. Fox moved that "no more of the old corps (regiments of the standing army) should be sent out of the kingdom"—and that at a time when any day might bring forth a declaration of war from France. The motions were of course all of them lost, but they served their purpose in encouraging the Americans to reject all overtures and prolong their resistance. It is to be noticed that the American leaders, having these friends in Parliament, were careful always to hold the King in person responsible for all their grievances, lest they should offend their own supporters by ascribing them to Parliament at large. This cunning misrepresentation is answerable for many mistaken views.

North now bethought himself to seek help by bringing some of the Opposition into the Ministry, and naturally suggested Chatham. The King did not smile upon the idea. Chatham's name, as the King acidly remarked, "was always his greatest merit", but was not so potent as formerly; and, since Chatham had spoken violently against American independence, he would not carry with him Rockingham's party which was prepared to concede it (2184). On the day following the date of this letter, intelligence from Paris showed war with France to be certain (2186); and the King urged North to lose no time in laying his proposals for conciliating America before Parliament, and asked for his concurrence in employing the bulk of the British troops against the new enemy (2190). Then North reported that Chatham had been approached by the Duke of Northumberland, and that he would probably be the least extravagant member of the Opposition in

his demands (2193). On the 13th of March the French Ambassador presented a note, couched in an insolent tone, which announced the treaty between France and the revolted Colonies; and therewith the breach with France became open and complete. On that same day North again represented his own insufficiency, and submitted a sketch of a new Administration which was to include Chatham and his follower Shelburne, but not to include Germain (2219, 2220). The King answered (2221) that he would accept any one so long as North remained at the head of the Administration, but refused to see Chatham except upon this understanding, and did not expect him to agree to these terms. For the rest he "would rather lose the Crown than bear the ignominy of possessing it under the shackles" of any branch of the Opposition.

North's protests and the King's rejoinders follow in quick succession (2222–2228), the last-named document showing pathetically North's anxiety to escape from office at all costs. The King was adamant. He characterised Chatham as "that perfidious man"—not unjustly, for Chatham had treated him abominably; but he did not found his objection to him upon personal grounds. "My dear lord, it is not private pique but an opinion formed on an experience of a reign of now seventeen years." The utmost length to which he would go was to accept the services of the Opposition to strengthen North. He professed himself still open to North's project of Sunday, the 15th of March (2219), but he stipulated that Thurlow should first be made Lord Chancellor at once (2330, 2332). North still protested (2235), and with renewed vigour, upon hearing that the Opposition was prepared to abandon its differences and unite under the leadership of Chatham, and that Lord Granby was on his way to Chatham with the news (2239). The King became impatient. "I am ex-

tremely indifferent whether Lord Granby goes or does not go with the abject message of the Rockingham party this day to Hayes; I certainly will send none to that place" (2240). North, sick with vexation, again pressed for leave to resign (2241), and was answered in a strain implying that the King knew what manner of man he had to deal with (2245). The King was anxious enough that men of ability should be added to the Cabinet, and was especially eager to take in Sir Joseph Yorke, his trusted Ambassador at The Hague.

North meanwhile brought forward his ideas of conciliating America, using the mediation of the three American Commissioners at Paris, Franklin, Deane and Lee. But rightly he did not trust the sincerity of Franklin (2246, 2250); and the King was as mistrustful as North. Yet, he thought it so desirable to end the war with the Colonies, that he consented "to keep open the channel of intercourse with that insidious man"; and it is evident that he was prepared to make great concessions, for he stipulated only that, in the event of a treaty, not a word should be said concerning Canada, Nova Scotia and the Floridas, "which are Colonies belonging to this country, and the more they are kept unlike the other Colonies, the better" (2251). Even now, however, North did not cease to press for his own retirement and to urge the claims of Chatham (2247), and the King seems to have been so far touched that he submitted the letter to Lord Weymouth, who pronounced (2248) in effect that North could not now fail him. But North still struggled to obtain his own dismissal and the calling in of Chatham, though he consented to remain in office at least till the end of the Parliamentary Session (2255, 2257); and the King in return agreed to offer Wedderburn temptations which would keep him in the House of Commons, at hand to support North until Parliament should rise (2259). Therewith North plucked

up heart (2260, 2262, 2266)—he seems to have been the most mercurial of men—and Minister and Sovereign turned to the more congenial task of strengthening the Ministry through the promotion of Thurlow and the satisfaction of Wedderburn's claims, while considering also the appointment of Commissioners to carry pacific proposals to America (2265, 2270, *and see index*, Wedderburn).

On the 7th of April Chatham came down to the House of Lords for the last time to declaim against a proposed surrender of the British sovereignty over the American Colonies, and, as is well known, collapsed under a paralytic stroke, which a few weeks later proved fatal. Thus was all hope of his accession to the Ministry destroyed. But it may be doubted whether his death made any great difference to the situation. It has been thought that conciliatory overtures from him might have been better received than those from North, which were unceremoniously rejected. I cannot myself think so. Matters had gone infinitely too far. As I have already said, Chatham had utterly misconceived the situation in America. He had treated it as a mere rising against unpopular measures which the Mother Country had endeavoured to impose, and he had done his utmost, chiefly for factious ends, to encourage it. He had, as a matter of fact, been paltering, perhaps unconsciously, not with rebellion, which might be allayed through concession, but with revolution, which is a very different thing. It was a case not of removing grievances but of combating ideas.

Moreover, the Alliance of the revolted Colonies with France was an accomplished fact, and one of immeasurable importance. It had greatly shocked public opinion, not in England only but to some extent in America itself. If we can imagine Belgium, in this year 1927, upon a civil inquiry as to the payment of her debt to England, rising in violent indignation and calling Germany to her assistance,

we may form some idea of the feeling which the Alliance between France and the revolted Colonies must have raised in England in 1778. Definitely the Americans turned their backs upon the Mother Country, and joined with the old inveterate enemy against her. They committed themselves, in fact, to hostility against England for an indefinite period, a period which is not yet ended. Against such a decision I do not think that the name of Chatham himself could have prevailed, particularly as he had already lent it to the general support of the rebels. The change in his attitude at the last was due to the fact that, though he hated the King's Government much, he hated the French more. If England had been united over the American question, there would have been no successful rebellion, but Chatham had done as much as any man to divide it; and he could not have escaped the consequences. Furthermore, it is difficult to see how negotiations could have been conducted so as to bind the whole of the Colonies. Congress, as had been proved by its shameless violation of the Convention of Saratoga, was not a body that had any idea of keeping faith. Moreover, the mob of Boston was still violent, still capable of tarring and feathering the wife and daughter of a loyalist and dragging them naked through the streets; and this mob could not easily be put down without regular troops. Even if Chatham had been able to patch up some kind of a reconciliation (which seems to me quite out of the question) between Mother Country and Colonies, there would have been no peace between the contending factions in America itself.

Meanwhile the collapse of Chatham eased the position of the King. "May not the political exit of Lord Chatham incline you to continue at the head of my affairs?" he wrote to North on the 8th of April (2284). And so it was. The wearisome negotiations for con-

ciliating Chief Justice de Grey, Wedderburn and Thurlow may be followed under the index of their names; and we may turn for the moment to naval affairs. The command of the Channel Fleet had been entrusted to Admiral Keppel, a Whig, who accepted it with a good sailor's disclaimer of all political manœuvres (2227). The trouble was that the Admiralty, with the possibility of a Spanish declaration of war before it, felt itself not strong enough to send a squadron to intercept the Toulon Fleet under Count d'Estaing, which was bound for America (2275). There was much hesitation on this question of d'Estaing (2304), and Keppel complained that he could make no fixed plan for attack on the enemy because he was continually threatened with the detachment of a part of his force, whereas he naturally wished to keep it together (2312). To hasten the naval preparations the King proceeded in person to Portsmouth, and has left a full account in his own hand of his journey and his doings there (2323, 2324). While at Portsmouth he received a frantic letter from North, reporting violent attacks upon him in the House of Commons because the fleet had not sailed, and once again begging to resign (2327). "It is very absurd in gentlemen unacquainted with the immense detail of naval affairs to trouble the House of Commons with matters totally foreign to truth", wrote the King calmly; "if I was now writing from my own ideas I should be as absurd as them, but Keppel, Palliser, Parker and Hood are men whose knowledge in that science may be trusted" (2328). But North had evidently lost his head for the moment, and reiterated his lamentations at greater length (2329). "My good lord, no mortal can withstand the will of Divine Providence", answered the King coolly, "from the hour I arrived here not an instant has been lost to forward the sailing of this fleet" (2330). It was arranged that a squadron under Admiral Byron

(Foul-weather Jack) should sail to New York to look after d'Estaing; and Commodore Samuel Hood added a hint as to the prevailing winds on the American coast (2332). North continued to urge that he might retire (2334), and the King now answered that, if North would only push forward the appointment of Thurlow to be Chancellor, he would consider how to carry on the Government without him (2336). Lord Weymouth opined that this answer must compel North to settle the matter of Thurlow (2337).

The appointment of Lord North to the Wardenship of the Cinque Ports (2346, 2347) made a pleasant interlude, and then King and Minister returned to the business of strengthening the Administration, the placation of Wedderburn being apparently the most troublesome part of the business (*see index*, Wedderburn), for North himself was inclined to take for the moment a more cheerful view of his own powers (2369, 2370). Meanwhile Sir William Howe had returned from America, not unfriendly, and at the beginning of July had seen the King, and warned him against his projected attack upon the French West Indies. There was not so fine an army in the world as the troops in America, said Howe; and there can be no question but that he spoke the truth; but a campaign in the West Indies, though it would succeed, would only destroy them all (2387). The event proved that Howe was right; and his monition must have been most disquieting. The King's plan, as we have seen, was to win back the Americans by beating France. Chatham himself could have suggested nothing better. But how to make France suffer except in the West Indies, it was difficult to see. Moreover, the West Indies, from their proximity to the American coast, enabled a fleet to make itself felt in both quarters; and it must be added that the British West Indian Islands were thoroughly in

sympathy with the Americans and disloyal to the Mother Country.

On the 9th of July Keppel sailed with twenty-four ships, presently raised to twenty-nine (2388); and high hopes were built upon the result of a general action, which, if successful, might quench the hostility of Spain (2389, 2391). The general action took place off Ushant on the 27th (there are some few details in No. 2431), and, to the general disappointment, was indecisive. Lord Sandwich at the Admiralty remarked that he had not heard a word about it from any one except Keppel himself, though he had expected some intelligence from Rear-Admiral Sir Hugh Palliser, who, politically, was, unlike Keppel, on the side of the Government. In American waters the proverbial bad luck of "Foul-weather Jack" had enabled d'Estaing to work on the American coast unharmed (2411). In August also came the news of the rejection of North's pacific overtures by the Americans; and the King, pursuant to his declared policy, abandoned all idea of important operations in America until he should have dealt with the French (2405). The course of the naval movements may be followed from Lord Sandwich's letters (2418–2422). It was the King's hope that Spain might be prevented from declaring war until 1779, when the British fleet would be ready to cope with the naval force of both nations (2434).

With the approach of the Parliamentary Session the King stirred up Lord North to rally his friends in the House of Commons (2438), and, receiving a despondent reply (2439), repeated his injunction with energy (2444). The result was another long querulous letter of resignation, tempered by a suggestion that Charles Jenkinson should relieve North of the Chancellorship of the Exchequer (2446). The King remonstrated shortly (2447), with the usual result (2450). Meanwhile the

King did not blind himself to the troubles which were cropping up on every side, notably that eternal difficulty—the wide dispersion of the Empire. "The misfortune is we have more to defend than we have ships ready to employ." But he had boundless courage, and endeavoured to instil some of it into North. "I doubt not that our numberless difficulties with spirit, assiduity and attention would soon vanish" (2449). The only result was another abject letter (2450), another remonstrance from the King (2451), more apologetic despondency from North (2452), and at last an interview between John Robinson and North, with the result that Robinson found the unhappy Minister much better disposed to go on and act with spirit than he had hitherto been (2455). Charles Jenkinson was appointed Secretary at War in place of Lord Barrington (2455, 2456), and with Thurlow on the Woolsack to defend the Government in the Lords and Wedderburn as Attorney-General to support North in the Commons, it was hoped that things might improve. But what was needed was some fighting spirit in North himself.

And now began the trouble in the Navy. Disappointment with the results of the naval action off Ushant had naturally led to public reproaches against the Commanders, and notably against Keppel and Palliser, who thereupon began to blame each other. Palliser put himself utterly in the wrong by defending himself in the newspapers, and then went on to bring definite charges of misconduct and incapacity against Keppel. Both officers were members of the House of Commons, Palliser on the side of Government, Keppel in Opposition; and their differences upon a highly technical matter became of course the sport of faction. This would have signified little had not the Navy also split itself into two violent parties; and an analysis of the officers of Keppel's fleet shows that, though

with hardly an exception they were masters of their profession, comparatively few were content to mind their own business and leave politics alone. Two of the very best of them, Samuel Hood and John Jervis, were among the most violent, and on opposite sides (2460). It was not a very pleasant symptom that Keppel's brother, a Lieutenant-General in the Army, took occasion at this time to resign his command (2466).

Admiral Keppel naturally demanded a court-martial, and the matter occupied the King's attention a good deal (2468–2470). Messages from the court were sent up during its long sittings (2497–2500, 2525), until it ended in Keppel's triumphant acquittal (2532). Keppel's captains at once got up a memorial to the King praying that Palliser might be dismissed from all of his employments (2526)—an outrageous impertinence and breach of discipline. An address to the same effect in the Commons was threatened; North's supporters were urgent that Palliser should be persuaded to resign before the motion should come on; the King was for dismissing Palliser from all employment voluntarily before he should be compelled to do so; and Palliser, either voluntarily or upon a hint from Sandwich, removed all difficulties by resignation (2550). For all his mistakes he did not lack sympathy from the King (2551). We catch a glimpse of the riots in London after Keppel's acquittal (2534), and of the King's precautions for North's safety (2538). London had suffered a good deal from hired mobs and was destined to suffer more.

Unfortunately the matter did not end there. Keppel, evidently egged on by factious friends, wrote a letter to the King refusing to serve longer under the existing Government (2556). General Keppel seems to have joined in the quarrel (2565). Fox carried it into the House of Commons, where a dwindling majority for Government provoked the King to high indignation (2567, 2568). The

King referred Keppel's letter to Jenkinson, who summed up its content and purpose very shrewdly (2570). Fox renewed his attack in the Commons (2574), but was handsomely beaten (2575); and then there followed disquieting signs that naval officers were trying to take matters into their own hands, and that some of Keppel's captains were inclined to throw up their commissions (2495, 2584). But common sense began to prevail in the Navy. Admiral Campbell "condemns Admiral Keppel greatly for mixing politics with his profession; acknowledges that Government cannot go on if Military people are to point out who shall or shall not be the King's Ministers" (2588). Meanwhile Palliser in his turn had demanded a court-martial (2603). He likewise was acquitted, and Fox brought this matter also before the House of Commons (2636). His attacks upon Sandwich had been savagely virulent, and in fact the Opposition had lost no opportunity of injuring the discipline of the Navy. The affair gradually died down. Keppel received the order which he desired to strike his flag; and he and Palliser retired for the time into the background. Both were brave and respectable officers, but neither was of the first rank professionally, and both were inclined to lose their heads over political matters. Keppel's name, like Vernon's, is still to be found on the signs of a few inns, attesting that he was once a popular hero; and that is the beginning and end of his fame.

Throughout these unseemly wrangles the King had been engaged in trying to strengthen the Board of Admiralty, fixing his choice first upon Lord Howe (2470, 2485). The matter gave rise to much trouble, for Howe was needed for the command of the Channel Fleet if Keppel should strike his flag (2501, 2562, 2565). The naval officers on the Board begged for one of flag rank to give them weight (2602), and application was finally

made to Sir Charles Hardy (2607). The whole question was complicated with the reconstruction of the Ministry, which was going forward at the same time. Lord Suffolk wished to exchange the office of Secretary of State for an appointment in the household, and there was some idea of promoting Sandwich to take his place. But Sandwich pointed out that his removal from the Admiralty would certainly be construed as a condemnation of his late conduct; and, if Howe were to take his place, Germain, whose military administration had been sharply criticised by Howe, could not remain in the Cabinet (2486). The King submitted the matter to Lord Weymouth, who declared himself unable to give an opinion (2496), and the King then pressed it again upon Lord North (2501). Lord Howe was evidently very zealous on his brother's behalf, and perhaps more inclined to think of his brother's welfare than of the public service (2506). At one moment it seems to have been decided that Germain must go, and that, since the King would not give him a peerage, he must be placated by the Wardenship of the Cinque Ports, which North offered to give up to him (2510, 2511). Then suddenly North announced that a strong coalition might be formed by the accession of the Duke of Grafton, Lord Camden, Fox, the Grenvilles and Sir James Lowther's following, which, he was told, might be easily obtained. He proposed Lord Gower or Lord Weymouth at the Treasury, with Jenkinson for Chancellor of the Exchequer (2512). The King raised no objection; only, when passing the affair on to Lord Weymouth, he insisted that Weymouth must be the new head of the Treasury (2513, 2514).

Weymouth went to see Grafton (2515–2517), and presently reported that there was no prospect of such a coalition; so the King sounded Lord Howe as to his readiness to become First Lord of the Admiralty, but

without success (2518–2523). The reconstruction of the Ministry was rapidly reducing itself to the mere detail of finding a successor to Lord Suffolk (2524); and a few days later, on the 11th of February 1779, North reported further defections which seemed likely to bring the whole Administration to the ground (2530), though the King perceived in them nothing but a commonplace political intrigue (2531). Then an adverse vote in the House of Commons gave a shock to North's nerves (2535), and the King was obliged to admonish him that "the Country would never regain a proper tone unless Ministers, as in the reign of King William, did not mind now and then being in a minority" (2536). Jenkinson, meanwhile, was watching the proceedings of the Opposition, and gave a curious report both of them and of the intrigues among the inferior members of the Administration, Wedderburn among them (2546, 2554). There was not too cordial agreement even among its higher members, for Lord Weymouth and the Lord President, Gower, on one day voted in the minority against the Chancellor. However, North finally made up his mind to recommend Lord Hillsborough as successor to Suffolk, who meanwhile had died (2596, 2616), and the King, after warning North to propitiate Lord Carlisle, consented (2611). Thereupon Wedderburn again became restive, being anxious himself to become a Secretary of State (2613, 2615, 2619). Further confusion was raised owing to injudicious behaviour of Lord George Germain in the House of Commons during the inquiry into Sir William Howe's operations (2626); and then we find that Lord Rockingham had been in communication with the King, and that presumably the idea of a coalition had not yet vanished (2627). But the matter apparently judged most important was the conciliation of Wedderburn, who, knowing his own value, gave a great deal of trouble (2635, 2637, 2638, 2648). Then

the project of a coalition with Grafton and Rockingham reappears; Lord Gower being designed to succeed North at the head of the Treasury, and Mr. Charles Fox to have a place "of profit only without any share of business", with which apparently he would be content (2643). The Lord Advocate, Henry Dundas, had as well as Wedderburn been pressing his claims; and the result may be seen in a sketch of a new Administration, dated June 11, 1779 (2651), which was apparently submitted by North and copied by the King (2656).

As regards the prosecution of the war, Galloway, the Philadelphian loyalist, and Major-General Robertson had submitted valuable information and plans at the opening of 1779 (2492–2494). The Opposition, on its side, did its utmost to encourage the Americans in resistance by a motion for an address to the throne to direct measures for restoring peace with America (2650). The King's comment upon this is among the most remarkable of his letters (2649). He freely admitted that he doubted if any war were really worth its expense, but he represented that the independence of America would inevitably lead to the loss of the West Indies, which were (and still are) dependent on America for food-supplies, and of Ireland, leaving Britain in insignificant isolation and poverty. "Whether", he wrote, "the laying a tax was deserving all the evils that have arisen from it, I should suppose no man could allege that without being thought more fit for Bedlam than a seat in the Senate." The King evidently had a glimpse of the truth. The American Revolution had begun before the peace of 1763 was signed.

Coming back to the reconstruction of the Ministry, North again pressed his resignation upon the King, and received the usual reply (2656, 2657, 2660). An immediate declaration of war by Spain was now certain, but the King, knowing that he was not responsible,

was quite calm (2658, 2659). The Opposition now showed some semblance of patriotism in the face of great national peril, though they neutralised it by a motion to withdraw the troops from America (2662). However desirable such a step might have been, this was not a time for pressing it. In fact it would have been positively dangerous from a military point of view, unless some previous agreement had been made with the revolted Colonies for a cessation of hostilities, and for protection of the loyal Americans, and unless guarantees had been taken for the faithful execution of such an agreement. But there is no such blindness as that of faction. Measures were brought in for the augmentation of the Militia and for a general press of seamen, but even these the Opposition could not pass without violent attacks on Ministers (2669). The King was quite satisfied that, but for the intervention of Spain, the revolted Colonies would soon have submitted (2674), probably basing his opinion on the utter failure of d'Estaing's operations in American waters, which had caused bitter feeling among the Americans. North, shrinking more than ever from the great peril which now threatened the British Isles, once more proposed a coalition with Lord Gower at its head (2673), and pressed his own resignation (2692). Then Wedderburn again became troublesome and had to be soothed, though the King had insured himself against his defection by securing Henry Dundas as a substitute (2695, 2696). "No man", wrote the King very justly, "has the right to talk of leaving me at this hour."

Wedderburn was reclaimed with no great difficulty (2699, 2703); and then all attention was concentrated on the probability of the junction of the French and Spanish fleets and the prospect of an invasion (2698, 2702). Patriotic gentlemen were raising troops (2709–2711), but the peril was great, for it became more and

more certain that the French and Spanish fleets were united. The King was slow to believe it, but absolutely refused to be dismayed, having boundless confidence in the moral superiority of his own fleet, no matter what its numerical inferiority (2716–2720), its ability to accept or refuse battle being governed very much by the number of its copper-sheathed ships, of which the King had taken note (2724). There was anxious debate whether the British Commander-in-Chief should or should not be instructed to decline an action; and orders were sent to him which practically authorised him, with wide discretion, to fight (2722, 2723). Meanwhile the Duke of Richmond, as Lord-Lieutenant of Sussex, contested the order to drive the country in case of an invasion; and the King reasonably decided to replace him by another Lieutenant (2737, 2756). A second order was sent to Hardy, encouraging him to bring the enemy to action, if he should think fit (2741). The culpably defenceless state of Plymouth now caused fresh anxiety (2752–2755), but Hardy, with thirty-eight ships to sixty-six, drew the enemy away and put in to Spithead. This was the most anxious moment of the war; and Sandwich went down in person to Portsmouth to hasten the fleet again to sea (2759–2763). But the King never wavered in his confidence of victory in case of an action; and the condition of the French and Spanish fleets, added to the divisions among their commanders, seems fully to have justified him. Politicians of both parties flocked into Portsmouth, for faction had by no means wholly disappeared from the fleet; and the busier and more mischievous among them at once began to undermine, so far as they could, the authority of Hardy (2765–2767). Other busybodies seem to have tried to start a quarrel betweem Admiral Barrington, who was a Whig, and Admiral Byron; but Barrington, fresh from brilliantly successful operations at St. Lucia,

was too good an officer to be led away (2769), though he had been indiscreetly outspoken about the danger of the British West Indian Islands. The King upon this point was resolute. The West Indies must be defended at the cost even of invasion of the British Isles. " We must be ruined if every idea of offensive war is to be dormant until this island is thought in a situation to defy attacks ", and again, " I very clearly see that if we alone attend to home security every valuable possession will be lost before any effort is made to any other tendency but making the country secure against foreign invasion; this will sour the minds of the people as yet well disposed, if every two or three months fresh losses are to be met with " (2773, 2774).

The King's notion that attack is the best defence was seconded by Sandwich, but not apparently by the rest of the Cabinet, least of all by the irresolute North (2775); and Sandwich drew out an exact statement of the state of the naval force at this time, showing that though the Navy was stronger than it had ever been, it was still too small for all the duties required of it when faced by the unprovoked hostility of both France and Spain, with the plague of American privateers in addition (2776). At this critical time Lord Gower announced his intention of resigning his seat in the Cabinet, since, reviewing the situation in detail, he considered the outlook hopeless. He held it "absolutely impossible that the public business can in moments like these be carried on against a strong and formidable Opposition ", though he considered the " wickedness of the Opposition " to exceed the weakness of Government. North judged that Gower's withdrawal would be fatal to the Administration and entreated once again for a change (2777). So the old story began once more. Mr. Jenkinson talked to Lord Gower (2778, 2779), and

Mr. Rigby talked to Lord Sandwich; Rigby especially condemning the dilatoriness of Lord North and the indolence of Lord Weymouth, but welcoming the prospect of Lord Stormont as a new Secretary of State (2791, 2792). In the meanwhile Lord Amherst submitted his ideas as to an offensive campaign in the West Indies, and the Cabinet made its recommendations in the same spirit (2780, 2781). Military operations had not gone very ill in any quarter during 1779, and the great armament of France and Spain had broken up ignominiously and retired, having accomplished nothing.

But the work of building up an Administration was endless. The King submitted his first ideas to Jenkinson, of whose shrewdness he evidently had a high opinion. "Public measures, not personality, are the guide of my conduct", he wrote (2796). He then, upon Jenkinson's advice (2800), turned to Thurlow (2799), while Sandwich sounded the ever-changing opinions of Lord North (2801), using also the good offices of John Robinson (2804). The course of the negotiations must be followed in the documents that ensue, their number being too many for quotation. It is to be noticed, however, that Lord Stormont took up the duties of Secretary of State on the 1st of November (2816), that Jenkinson thought he detected a plot to get rid of Lord North (2819), that the King tried hard but in vain to keep Weymouth (2820–2822), that Thurlow's behaviour was something of a disappointment both to Jenkinson and to the King (2823, 2824), and that, while it was possible to win Lord Camden, the Duke of Grafton and Lord Shelburne, by sacrificing North, Sandwich and Germain, Rockingham's party was not to be gained at any price (2823–2825). The troubles in Ireland were now superadded to all others (2839–2841), and North, taking offence at a sentence in one of the King's letters, again entreated to resign. "I have been miserable for ten years in

obedience to Your Majesty's commands, but since Your Majesty has now formed your opinion that I have been a great cause of this mischief I hope that Your Majesty has determined to permit me soon to retire . . . for really it is impossible to bear misery and guilt at the same time " (2845). However, matters soon improved ; and after some little trouble Lord Hillsborough received the seals of Second Secretary of State (2849–2852).

A week later North was again entreating to resign, hoping that a new Administration might be formed of Thurlow, Stormont, Gower and his friends, and Shelburne with his little party (2855). North had meanwhile worked himself up into a distracted state, which Jenkinson at first thought to be " nothing permanent, but a disease of the mind ", but presently construed into a possibly real intention to retire (2854, 2857, 2858). Thereupon Jenkinson warned the King against the danger lest North might " have it to say to the world that he is ready to retire, but that Your Majesty insists on his continuing in his present situation " (2860). The King then repeated his instructions to Thurlow that he was ready to admit any statesmen to his Councils who would consent to keep the Empire complete and carry on the present unprovoked war—a limitation which effectually excluded the Rockinghams (2865). A copy of this he sent to North, with an encouraging letter (2886), for which the good news of d'Estaing's decisive repulse before Savannah gave some warrant (2887). The story of the failure to form a new coalition Government even at the sacrifice of North is told at length in a long letter of the King to Thurlow (2882), whose conduct seems once again to have been a great disappointment to Jenkinson (2895), but who defended himself at equal length (2897).

And at this point the volume closes ; its chief interest lying perhaps in the light that it throws upon Lord

North's character, and incidentally upon the extraordinary courage and firmness of the King at the most critical moments. The entrance of France and Spain upon the war had not the slightest effect upon his determination; and it must be confessed that these two powers, with their enormous naval superiority, achieved remarkably little. Of the actual operations there is not much that appears in these papers, though there are three interesting documents concerning military policy in America (2492–2494, 2905). But of the struggle at home there is abundant evidence; though one of the most curious papers concerning the Opposition is undated, and its present place, though certainly wrong, was unfortunately not discovered to be so until too late (2815). It would be interesting to know exactly when it was that Charles Fox and Thomas Townshend squabbled as to which of them should be Paymaster, and Fox consoled himself with the prospect of becoming Chancellor of the Exchequer. It seems quite a pity that such a project should have been defeated by the Government's maintenance of its majority. The right date, if the incident be true, would probably be in the spring of 1780, but it is possible that the whole story may be tattle. Times of bitter party feeling are always times of hard lying; and this picture of Fox and Townshend may be merely a retort upon the faction which, for reasons best known to itself, thought fit to pillory George III. as a tyrant and a Papist.

J. W. F.

No. 2141—*The King to Lieut.-Gen. Harvey.*

[? *January*, 1778]

Lieutenant General Harvey the enclosed Irish Returns have arrived during your stay at Margate; I desire you will give Desaguliers a hint that the Rain this morning was the cause of my not calling to see his new experiments with Grape Shot; if there is a practice on Monday and the morning proves dry, I will certainly be by half-hour past Nine on Woolwich Common; if he is not to have the Men out that morning I will be there on Friday next; I desire to hear from you whether they are to be out on Monday, and that you will remind Desaguliers that as I shall come unexpectedly, that he must be surprised at my visit; I shall expect to find you near Charlton.

No. 2142—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

Lord Sandwich has the honour to send to your Majesty Sir Peter Parkers dispatches recieved by the Endeavour Sloop: as allso some marine commissions; among which is one appointing Captain Harrie Innies to succeed to the vacant Majority in consequence of Coll. Maitlands promotion. Captain Douglas who now stands first upon the list of marine captains, has been allready often passed over, & is too old for active service.

Admiralty, *Jan.* 1*st* 1778.

Lord Sandwich takes the liberty to add a private letter that he has just recieved from Sir Samuel Hood.

No. 2143—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

Admiralty, *Jan.* 2*nd* 1778.

Lord Sandwich has the misfortune to send to your Majesty an account of a dreadfull fire broken out this morning at Green-

wich Hospital ; the letter that comes herewith from Mr. Ibbetson the Secretary to the Hospital contains all the information we have yet recieved of this melancholly event.

No. 2144—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 114.

Lord North was very rightly informed by Lord Barrington, I have declined accepting the proposal of Mr. Campbell and Mr. Johnes, most of their officers have never been in the Army ; I have directed Lord Barrington to encourage the raising independent Companies in Wales, if Mr. Campbell's Brother has obtained a Lieutenancy in America, to offer his Brother a Company for him provided he will furnish the Men ; Mr. Rice will I believe furnish two Companies, in short I hope to get Men from Wales without burthening the half pay with Captains who never were in the Army.

QUEENS HOUSE,
Jany. 2*nd* 1778.
$\frac{m}{25}$ *pt.* 6. P.M.

No. 2145—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North thinks it his duty to address his Majesty once more upon the subject of the Welsh Corps. Mr. Lord, who had been recommended as a Major, is now proposed as Eldest Captain and Mr. Johnes withdraws all application for his Brother, who is not in the army, & recommends in his room Lieutenant Lloyd. Mr. Johnes declares himself equally zealous and ready to do every thing in his power to promote the service now that neither he nor any of his family have the least personal interest in the raising of this Corps, as he was when his Brother was thought of for a company : that he has no doubt of compleating the whole number in four months, but that he does not think the men will be raised so soon by independent companies or by any other means as by a Corps : that the Welsh are extremely national and partial to their neighbours, that they may easily be persuaded to follow their countrymen, but that they will not enlist

with strangers. That, notwithstanding the title of the Welsh Fusiliers, there is really no Welsh Corps in the army, that it would flatter the vanity of Wales to have such a Corps and that it would give great facility to the recruiting. He certainly understood from Lord George Germain that the only objection made to the Corps was the Scotch Commandant, which part of the plan he immediately relinquished, and considered himself and Mr. Campbell as completely authorized to make out a list of Officers for his Majesty's inspection. Lord North thinks himself bound in justice to Mr. Johnes to acquaint his Majesty with his zeal and his readiness to go on with the Corps, notwithstanding that his family motive has ceased, as well as his reasons for preferring a Corps to Independent Companies, which Lord North believes he gives from his sincere opinion, as well as because he can with more propriety exert himself in promoting a Corps of his own proposing than in raising independent companies when he has no connexion with the officers concerned.

Lord North does not know whether he explain'd to his Majesty that the reason which induced the gentlemen of Liverpool to request leave for Major Pole to sell his company, is that that gentleman having already the rank of Major, they did not conceive that without the liberty of selling his company, he would accept of the majority of their regiment. They desired Lord North yesterday to learn if his Majesty would consent that Major Pole should be Lieut. Colonel of the Regiment, which he would certainly very willingly and joyfully accept, without the sale of his company.

Downing Street,
Jan. 3*rd* 1778.

No. 2146—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 114.

Lord North—I can in very few words explain my opinion on the Welsh Companies I mean to raise ; I have given Mr. Rice and other Gentlemen of that Country, leave to raise Companies for Welsh Lieutenants in the Service ; if Mr. Johnes wishes to do the same he will have the same opportunity which when raised I shall form into a Corps and put proper field Officers to

the Corps whose men will be a credit to the Corps, not men taken merely to oblige individuals; what Ld. G. Germaine may have said I cannot answer for, but I ever objected to a Corps almost entirely composed of Men that had never been in the Service, the Captains of these Companies must have been Lieutenants, the Lieutenants Ensigns. The advancing Major Poole at once to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel will I fear hurt many good Men but should I consent to that, the Gentlemen must understand that I shall appoint a Colonel from among those who have distinguished themselves in America as I am to do for the Royal Manchester Volunteers.

QUEENS HOUSE.
Jany. 3*rd* 1777 [1778].
$\frac{m}{32}$ *pt. one* P.M.

No. 2147—*Lord Suffolk to the King.*

Our Peace with the House of Bourbon may in truth, Sir, be precarious; but I humbly conceive it is not more so for the Paris Letter, the contents of which in most respects are only a Repetition of Mr. Wentworth's Intelligence; and, as it is probable Lord Stormont communicates with this person, I do not think they are a Confirmation of it. But be the Ambassador's Notions and Intelligence ever so well founded, we can do no more than is actually ordered.

I have directed Lord Stormont's Letter to be sent to Lord North with a few Lines from myself. I happen to have a Pretence for writing to him; and beg your Majesty would throw the Drat. into the Fire when you have read it.

LIME GROVE,
Jan. 4 1778.
$\frac{m}{30}$ *pt.* 5. P.M.

Enclosure.

Lord Suffolk to Lord North.

LIME GROVE,
Jan. 4, 1778.

MY DEAR LORD—I received your Letter about the Dundasses last Night. I have not heard that the office they want is vacant;

and I have so often declined to accept a Resignation of it, that I hope your Lordship wont insist upon that Point. We'll talk the matter over when we meet.

I have seen Lord Stormont's Letter which came to-day, and have desired it might be forwarded to you immediately. He seems to have communicated with Wentworth since he wrote last; and to have summon'd up to settle his year's accompt, all the bad appearances he has discovered in the course of it. But I don't think he states any new Fact, or entirely confirms any old ones. Be the event however what it may, we certainly have not neglected to put the Country into a state of Preparation, and the very Measures which are now going on are highly applicable to this Day's Intelligence from our Ambassador supposing every word of it to be true.

No. 2148—*Lord Suffolk to the King.*

I have the Honour to communicate to your Majesty a Letter from Lord North in answer to mine of last night, by which your Majesty will see that he is not much struck with Lord Stormont's Intelligence. I believe your Majesty has by this time received from him a long epistle from Mr. Wentworth which shews pretty clearly that he and the Ambassador compare notes. The Anecdote of the Appointment of Opposition Commissioners to treat with the rebel Plenipotentiaries won't escape your Majesty's Observation.

St. James's,
Jan. 5, 1778.
$\frac{m}{20}$ *pt.* 2. P.M.

No. 2149—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of sending his Majesty two letters which he has just received from Lord Stormont and Mr. Forth, from which an approaching war with France and Spain appears now almost out of doubt.

Lord North has the honour of sending at the same time a more agreable letter which he has received from Mr. Lascelles

concerning the subscription of Halifax. Lord North has recommended to them to incorporate their recruits into the 33rd Regiment. If the spirit spreads to Leeds and thence to the County of York it will probably soon run over the kingdom, and may check for a time all ideas of invasion on the part of France, with which Lord North has no doubt but this Kingdom will be threatned in a few months.

Lord North begs leave to add that Mr. Lascelles has, upon all occasions, shewn himself a disinterested, and been a very useful friend to Government. Whenever there shall be a vacancy among the Grooms of his Majesty's Bedchamber, Mr. Lascelles will be much pleased, if it is filled by his nephew Col. Lascelles.

Lord North takes the liberty to add another letter containing a proposal of raising men. It is not much explain'd, but Lord North will appoint Mr. Greville in Downing Street tomorrow before he pays his duty at St. James's, when he will lay before his Majesty some other proposals that he has received.

Bushy Park,
Jan. 6, 1778.
$\frac{m}{10}$ *pt.* 7. P.M.

No. 2150—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 115.

Queens House,
Jany. 7th 1778.

Lord North—However insidious the conduct of France may appear it is pleasant to feel we are taking all the steps that would be necessary if it should end in a War, and my mind is perfectly prepared to meet what I should certainly think a very unhappy event from the consciousness that I have scrupulously attempted to avoid and that without one single grievance France chuses to be the Aggressor ; I cannot say Lord Stormont's letters contain anything new, but Mr. Forth on this occasion writes without flowers and the whole of his style seems to shew he expects a War.

I hope when you see Mr. Greville you will turn his thoughts from attempting to raise a new Corps and that his family will shew their zeal in heading a subscription and in personally

exerting themselves to raise Men in Warwickshire for compleating the Army ; Mr. Lascelles's account from Halifax is most agreable and will be followed I hope by other Towns in Yorkshire and by other Counties. I hope Norfolk has this s[c]heme only in view.

No. 2151—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of enclosing a letter he has received from Lord Pembroke, who probably has been misinformed, but Lord North thought it right nevertheless to send his Lordship's letter to his Majesty.

Downing Street,
Jan. 9, 1778.

Enclosure.

Lord Pembroke to Lord North.

Wilton House,
1 *Jan.* 1778.

My dear Lord—I have just heard, and I hear a great deal yr. Lordp. knows, that proposals are sent to Duke Ferdinand to comand in America. Should the report be true, and His Serene Highness accept, I, thus early, most earnestly entreat your interest with the King, that I may be permitted to accompany him—I do not mean to be employed, as that would be a hardship, perhaps, to the officers there, who, though below me, might think themselves aggrieved by an Elder *Countryman* coming, in employ, amongst them. All I wish is to accompany Duke Ferdinand—anyhow—as Valet de Chambre rather than not at all. In this, should the opportunity offer, I trust to your good offices, or I shall be forced to steal over after him, as the wives of soldiers do, when left behind in spite of their teeth.

Ever, my dear Lord, Your Lordship's Most Obedy. & Siny.
Pembroke.

When I say that I do not mean to be employed, I, by no means, wish to convey an idea, that I wish to avoid it ; for I am allways ready, and shall be happy to be employed on any service whatsoever. But my present request regards merely my accompanying the Duke, should he command in America.

No. 2152—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 116.

[The "Brothers" are Lord Howe, the Admiral, and Sir William Howe, the General.]

QUEENS HOUSE,
Jany. 9th 1778.
$\frac{m}{49}$ *pt.* 5 P.M.

I believe the idea of employing Prince Ferdinand of Brunswick in North America never occurred to any one but Lord North's correspondent at Wilton; indeed when that Lord was in waiting three weeks ago, he amused everyone in the Antichamber with asserting that proposals to that purpose were sent to that Prince; but I never dreamt his lively brain could have made him write to Lord North on that subject.

Lord G. Germain surprised me this day by communicating a conversation he had had this morning with Mr. Doyley who as he alledged had said he hoped when the future plan of War was under consideration, it would be also well considered who should have the command for that with the letters wrote from hence to the Brothers it was neither safe nor prudent to leave it with them, he would not explain to Lord George his reasons. I hope Lord North will see Doyley and draw this out of him for I think it highly material that he and I ought to know the whole of this affair.

No. 2153—*Lord George Germain to the King.*

Lord George Germain has the honour of acquainting your Majesty that the Cabinet met this morning and took into consideration the general state of the war in America and particularly that part of Sir William Howe's Letter in which he desires to be recalled, and the Lords directed Lord George to submit to your Majesty's determination their humble opinion upon that subject, whenever your Majesty shall please to order him to attend.

PALL MALL,
Jany. 10th 1778.
$\frac{m}{45}$ *pt.* 3. P.M.

No. 2154—*Lord North to the King.*

Printed. Donne II. 117.

Lord North has, in obedience to his Majesty's command, examined Mr. D'Oyley as to his conversation with the Secretary of State, and finds that there has been a misapprehension of what he said or, at least, meant to say, which, as far as Lord North can collect, is as follows, "That it was not only necessary to determine whether the two Brothers should continue in the command, but, if it should be determined that they are to continue, it will be requisite, after the letters that have been written to them, to consider how to persuade them to remain in their present situation." Mr. D'Oyley alluded to the last letters from Lord G. G. which were so cold and dry in respect to Sir W. H.'s successes in Pensylvania, and left him in doubt as to his continuance in the command, which he thinks will have made him more fully bent upon quitting the command. Mr. D'Oyley says, that he never thought it would be either *unsafe* or *imprudent* to leave Lord Howe and Sir William Howe at the head of the fleet and army but the contrary, and Lord North supposes that Lord George drew that inference from Mr. D'Oyley's expressions which, as Mr. D'Oyley says, amounted to no more than this, "That, after the letters that had been written, it is necessary to consider how to persuade them to remain in the command, if it is intended that they should be continued in it."

Downing Street,
Jan. 10 [1778].

No. 2155—*Lord Barrington to the King.*

Cavendish Square,
10*th Jan.* 1778.

I humbly presume to send herewith to your Majesty all the Papers relative to Lord John Murray's proposal of raising a second Battalion to the 42nd Regiment. If on the whole your Majesty shall think it best to defer that measure for the present, I concieve the great number of Corps raising in the Highlands (to which this Battalion would be an impediment) a very sufficient ground for delay. I submit to your Majesty's consideration

whether you will not hear what your Ministers have to say in favour of the Battalion (in case they approve it) before you determine against its being raised. Whenever an augmentation of the 42nd is thought advisable, I concieve it will be most expedient to raise a few companies at a time, but perhaps in the present moment even a small addition to the 42nd would have it's inconveniences. BARRINGTON.

No. 2156—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of inclosing two letters, which he received yesterday from Mr. Greville. Lord North hoped that as that business was now in the proper channels the War Office, he should have heard no more of it, but, as Mr. Greville's suggestion may be of importance, he thought it not right to delay the business by sending the letter through the War Office instead of conveying it directly to his Majesty.

Lord North hopes that his Majesty received the note he had the honour of writing to him before Lord George Germain brought him the opinion of the Cabinet as his Majesty would probably wish to know the contents of it, before he gave any answer to Lord George. It is certainly not desirable, if it can be avoided, to employ any general who declares himself unwilling to continue in his command and complains of slights and ill treatment, but if Ld. Amherst declines the service, which it is not improbable he will, it will [be] difficult to find an officer to replace Sir William Howe. Some of his resolutions require to be explain'd, but his conduct as an officer, since he has been in Pensylvania, has, according to the opinion of many people, been very proper, except in one or two instances, and though he is not liked at New York, he has the good opinion and confidence of the army that serves under him.

BUSHEY PARK,
Jan. 12, 1778.

Enclosure No. 1.

Mr. Greville to Lord North.

MY LORD—I enclose Copy of a letter which Capt. Humberston has sent to Lord Barrington which sufficiently shews the dis-

interested principles of his conduct. The Service will suffer by delay. I therefore think it fair to bring the matter to issue. If his Majesty proposes to adhere to the terms of a Letter of Service drawn up in consequence of a Conversation with your Lordship in which the appointment of the Majors is reserved to his Majesty, no Friend to Lord Seaforth can advise him to accept it. The persons who can fill these commissions are two if Capt. Humberston is excepted—Duncan Chisholme eldest Capt. of 1 Bat. 71 Regt. and Norman Mcleod Capt. of the 71 Regt. These gentlemen are essential to the Levy, their influence and property join and intermix with Lord Seaforth; if his Majesty will not approve two of these officers as Majors the whole must drop. I therefore intreat your Lordship to take his Majesties Sentiments on this occasion and to consider how far your Lordship may think it proper to advise his Majesty on a point so essential to the Levy.

It may not be improper to suggest in what light Lord Seaforth must appear in his Country when head of a Clan he cannot by the favor of his Majesty have leave to name two Field officers when the Second Branch of the same family and most of the persons who raise Highland Regiments have obtained leave to nominate their officers for his Majesties aprobation. I can assure your Lordship that altho he is zealous in the Cause neither his Honor nor Interest will permit him to recede from this particular.

I am, my Lord, Your Lordship's most Obedient and Humble Servant T. Greville.

Jany. 10*th* 1778.

Enclosure No. 2.

[*Capt. Humberston*] *to Lord Barrington.*

My Lord—Having since I had the honour to see your Lordship this morning consulted with Lord Seaforths Friends, and the people who are the most acquainted with his Country, they were unanimously of opinion that my Services might be of the most essential Utility in the raising and compleating this Corps, and they did not apprehend it would go on with alacrity, if I were not engaged in it. Your Lordship informs me, that His Majestys objections to my being named to the Majority are insuperable, and I am certain you will readily conceive that I would not chuse to have a Company in this Regiment, particularly, even with

permission to sell my Troop: The only capacity therefore in which I can serve His Majesty in Lord Seaforths Corps, must be as Volunteer, which Lord Seaforths Friends imagine will have as good, perhaps a better Effect in compleating the Corps than my having obtained the Majority. On this Occasion, as I purchased every Step of my Preferment, I beg leave to dispose of my Troop, my being permitted to retain the Rank of Captain in the Army I shall consider as a mark of His Majestys approbation of my present Conduct, but shou'd that be thought incompatible with His Majesty's Regulations, my endeavours to compleat this Corps shall not be less zealously exerted,—I shall then accompany it as simple Volunteer, and shall esteem myself sufficiently recompens'd, if on this or any other Occasion I have an Opportunity of shewing my Attachment to His Majestys Person and Government, and to the Constitutional Cause of my Country. I wait Your Lordship's answer, and have, etc.

London,
9 *January* 1778.

No. 2157—*The King to Lord North.*

[? 12 *January*, 1778.]

Lord North—If you had attentively read Mr. Greville's letter you would have thought it a most improper performance and considering his zeal for his friends have made him overshoot himself, I will not give it the epythets it deserves. As to Captain Humberstone if his serving as a Volunteer in the Mackenzie Corps is his wish I shall not object to it, and will give him leave to that without quitting his troop of Dragoons; but as to the two persons proposed as Majors they are Captains only of two Years standing, and the last never had any other Commission in the Army; Mr. Greville is very much mistaken when he thinks all the Officers recommended by the Gentlemen raising Scotch Corps will be accepted, I find they are making strange arrangements after all that I had directed the Secretary of War to tell them at the first outset and therefore have sent to all for their lists, when I shall do what may seem most equitable for them, at the same time prevent bad precedents.

No. 2158—*The King to Lord North.*

[*January*, 1778.]

Lord North—I do not object to Lord Herberts having leave of absence for the present; but should the War become more general or the Welsh Corps be ordered to America, he as well as the rest must join his Regiment.

Lord G. Germaine seems very anxious to have the request of Sir W. Howe to return home complied with; indeed I am persuaded those two are so ill together that the good of the service requires that either the Secretary or the General should retire. I wish you would thoroughly weigh this and when I see you next tell me fairly which of the two measures will be best for any half one would be ruinous, I mean any attempt to reconcile them.

No. 2159—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of sending his Majesty the inclosed letters which Mr. Forth has brought from Paris, he is arrived in company with Mr. Jeans and Sir Philip Gibbes, a great deal of Mr. Wentworth's correspondence is worth attention, a part of it is not as it relates to Mr. W's private situation and affairs. Mr. Eden sees a glimmering of sunshine in these dispatches, Lord North can not say he sees anything of that sort except that it is now doubtfull, whether the French will send a convoy with the ships which are going to America with supplies. The probability of a war with the House of Bourbon in a few months time seems to continue, and the immediate breaking out of it to be postponed only by the absence of the Galleons, and by the delay of the news from the Havanna of the arrival of the Spanish fleet from South America. I hope that the intelligence we recieved from Capt. Hynson and Mr. Wentworth in October last may enable either the cruizers in Europe or Lord Howe's fleet to intercept this great supply which is destined to the Rebels. Lord North has not yet seen Mr. Forth.

Bushy Park,
Jan. 12, [1778].
$\frac{m}{20}$ *pt.* 9. P.M.

No. 2160—*Mr. Robinson to the King.*

Mr. Robinson has the Honour to submit to His Majesty by Lord North's orders, two Papers which Mr. Robinson received from Lord North, just as he was leaving Bushy Park, about three quarters of an Hour ago, where he left The Attorney General, Mr. Jenkinson, Mr. Cornwall, and Mr. Martin, and to whom he returns very early to-morrow Morning.

Lord North recieved the Letter and Paper from Sir Philip Gibbes to-Day, and being engaged with the above Gentlemen at Bushy Park to-morrow, and having by a previous Appointment fixed to see Mr. Forth on Thursday Morning—His Lordship fears that he cannot see Sir Philip Gibbes until Thursday Evening, when he has directed Mr. Robinson to write Sir Philip to appoint him, and which Mr. Robinson accordingly does to-Night.

Syon Hill,
30/*m P.* 11, P.M.
13*th January* 1778.

No. 2161—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 118.

Lord North—I have read the very voluminous and undigested letters from Mr. Wentworth, whose productions I confess it is hard labour to wade through; from which I collect that he has been too precipitate in looking on a declaration of War as immediate, for things seem to be on the same uncertain ground as the last Year, a trifle may any hour cause War to break out, and though the French Ministers wish to avoid it, yet they will not leave off their dealings with Rebels, by which they every day may be drawn into what they do not desire.

It also appears from these letters that Franklin and Deane either have no power of treating or that they are not enclined to furnish any lights how an accommodation can be effected, for whilst nothing short of Independency will be accepted, I do not think there is a Man either bold or Mad enough to presume to treat for the Mother Country on such a basis; perhaps the time

may come when it will be wise to abandon all North America but Canada, Nova Scotia and the Floridas, but then the generality of the Nation must see it first in that light; but to treat with Independence can never be possible.

I saw Lord Amherst Yesterday, who though with every expression of duty declined in fact, though out of decency on being strongly pressed he took time to consider though gave no room to expect he will accept. Thus I have done all I could to effect what the Cabinet unanimously thought the most desirable step.

What I have now to propose is that without loss of time the mode of conducting the American War be deliberated upon, that Lord Amherst be examined at the Cabinet on the Subject; he is clear that after the disaster of Burgoyne not less than an additional Army to what is there at present of 40,000 Men can carry on with any effect an Offensive Land War, that a Sea War is the only wise plan, that the preventing the arrival of Military Stores, Cloathing, and the other Articles necessary from Europe must distress them and make them come into what Britain may decently consent to; that at this hour they will laugh at any proposition.

After the mode of War is settled then the General who is to command; it will be difficult to get Sir W. Howe to remain and not less so to get Lord G. Germain to act in such a manner towards him as will make the efforts of others not prove abortive on that head.

What is still more material to be settled is the plan on which Administration is to repell the different attacks of Opposition when Parliament meets, as to the calling for Papers, the proposing enquiries etc., this must be digested by you and I hope is already so nearly ready that you may open the whole to the Cabinet when next it meets, and have a minute taken that when the Debate in both Houses, on the State of the Nation from want of previous concert the conduct may not be opposite.

QUEENS HOUSE,
Jany. 13*th* 1778.
$\frac{m}{13}$ *pt.* 9. P.M.

No. 2162—*Lord George Germain to the King.*

Lord George Germain had the honor of your Majesty's commands yesterday Evening, he has in vain endeavoured to see Lord Amherst who went this morning to Woolwich and by his not calling in Pall Mall after seeing your Majesty it may be concluded he intended to avoid all conversation upon a subject on which he had taken his resolution. From a Boy he had a degree of what some people thought firmness, and others called obstinacy, in his Tempers, which made reasoning with him, upon points he had resolved, of no effect. How he or any officers can decline service when so honourably and so directly offer'd by his Sovereign is beyond all conception.

Lord George will omit no opportunity of telling Lord Amherst his opinion upon so interesting a subject, if Lady Georges dangerous situation does not prevent him from attending to that or any other business.

The enclosed Letters from Colonel Gordon seem so proper that the Duke of Gordon ought to be satisfied, Lord George hopes your Majesty will permit him to commend Colonel Gordon for the Attention he has shewn to what he apprehends to be your Majesty's pleasure.

The other Letters from Mr. Hutton may not be unworthy of your Majesty's perusal.

Pall Mall,
13*th Jany.* 1778.

$\frac{m}{35}$ *pt.* 3, P.M.

No. 2163—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of transmitting to his Majesty an address of Edinburgh which he has just received from Sir Lawrence Dundas, and begs leave to accompany it with a letter from Sir Grey Cooper which will explain the wishes of that City and the sentiments of Sir Lawrence better than Lord North can pretend to do.

Lord North did not understand that it was expected of him to come prepared with any plan to the next meeting of the Cabinet for the conduct of both houses, at least, of the King's

servants in both houses upon all possible attacks, or enquiries that may be brought on after the recess. He gave his opinion at the last meeting upon the supposition of a motion concerning Gen. Burgoyne's expedition, and will be ready to give his sentiments upon that again tomorrow, and if any other measure of opposition can be foreseen he will not decline giving his opinion upon it; but, let the resolutions taken by Administration be what they will, if a question is moved suddenly in both Houses at one time, it will always be very possible that the Ministers in the two Houses may think differently about it. Such difference of opinion, on a former occasion was absolutely unavoidable, but of no great consequence.

Lord North takes the liberty of adding a letter he has just received from Bristol.

Wednesday, Jany. 14*th* [1778].

No. 2164—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 120.

Lord North—The address from Edinburgh is a very strong testimony of the zeal of that City, and as such I fear the plan cannot be changed without hurting the promoters of it; the immense number of New Corps has given promotion to one part of my Kingdom in preferment to the rest; if the Gentlemen would be persuaded to turn their proposal into compleating the Old Scotch Corps in the Service it would be much more advantageous and I would contrive soon to get Major Dundas the rank of Lieut. Col. which at bottom is the object of his relation; but if this cannot be effected without ill humour, I will accept of the Corps, but hope after that is done they will not be coming with a list of recommendations of Officers which will be thrown [*sic*] on a zealous measure the air of private interest which would sully it.

It is impossible I could expect Lord North to be ready with answers for every absurd proposition Opposition may propose. I know his abilities and zeal are equal to any man's but never dreamt that he was to be able to foresee what gentlemen may not as yet themselves have thought of; what I meant was that

the great outlines of measures should be settled before the Houses reassembled that will prevent Differences of conduct in material respects, which could only tend to confusion; small variations though to be avoided when possible are not certainly of much import though they are unpleasant.

I hope Lord North will do his utmost to prevent the forming any more offers of new Corps they will instead of being of utility only perplex and totally anihilate all chance of compleating the regular forces which alone in time of need can be depended upon; particularly in England, the raising Corps would be total destruction to the Army; I hope care will therefore be taken to turn the idea of a Westminster Regiment into a Subscription for compleating the Army at large.

I need not caution Lord North to hear Sir Philip Gibbes without letting him go away impressed with his opinions for by the letter I received from Bushy the other Sir Philip is known to be a doubtful character.

QUEENS HOUSE,
Jany. 15*th* 1778.

$\frac{m}{6}$ *pt.* M.

No. 2165—*Lord Barrington to the King.*

CAVENDISH SQUARE,
15*th Jan.* 1778.

In obedience to your Majestys commands I send herewith Sir Wm. Howes last list of promotions.

I have seen Mr. Adair who says Genl. Harvey was better yesterday.

Lord John Murray is so urgent to know your Majesty's determination about his second Battalion that I shall attend your Majesty this day for that purpose. BARRINGTON.

No. 2166—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of sending some more intelligence from Mr. Wentworth of a very important and interesting [nature] and which confirms what he sent before and what has arrived

from different quarters of the negociations between the Rebel Commissioners and France.

Lord North has the honour of informing his Majesty that all the passages respecting the Navy, and the sailing of privateers and storeships are immediately extracted, and sent to Lord Sandwich.

Thursday, Jan. 15*th* [1778].

$\frac{m}{55}$ *p.* 11. P.M.

No. 2167—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of informing his Majesty that, upon conversing with Sir Lawrence Dundas, he finds that the Edinburgh regiment will wish extremely for Sir William Erskine to be their Colonel, though, in case that such an arrangement should be impossible, they would then be well satisfied with Col. Leslie whom they esteem, but their predilection is strongly for Sir William Erskine. Lord North has just received a letter from Mr. Lascelles, by which it appears that he had not made himself clearly understood before, or did not himself clearly understand the proposal of the gentlemen of Halifax.

Downing Street,
Friday, Jany. 16 [1778].

No. 2168—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 121.

Lord North—I return the Paper received from Mr. Wentworth. You look on me and I believe with some truth as not very much trusting to any of the Accounts that come from Bancroft. He certainly is a stock jobber and is not friendly to England, and perhaps the conveyer is not less a dabbler in that Commodity and above all wishes to be thought active and Men of his Cast are often credulous.

Queens House,
Jany. 16*th* 1778.

$\frac{m}{22}$ *pt.* 11. P.M.

No. 2169—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 121.

QUEENS HOUSE,
Jany. 17*th* 1778.
$\frac{m}{5}$ *pt.* 7 A.M.

The opinion Lord North gave me on the enclosed papers from Sir Joseph Yorke coincides entirely with mine and I have long thought that Gentleman so thoroughly trained to business, that there are but very few situations he would not fill with the greatest credit, and one is sorry when there is so great a dearth of able Men, he should be immured in the post of Foreign Political Watchman at the Hague.

I am a little mortified that the plan of Halifax is so different from what we had just grounds to expect, and after we have trumpeted the handsome conduct of that Corporation, it would be very unpleasant to accept their proposal in the present large extent; I desire you will therefore see Lord Barrington and try whether some way cannot be found to bring it into some better shape.

I feared the City was not yet enough returned to sobriety to be persuaded heartily to support the Corps, and therefore think the friends of Government would have acted wiser in adopting a public Subscription unattended with the mortifying circumstance of a defeat in the Corporation.

No. 2170.

Minute of Cabinet.

[In the King's handwriting.]

AT LORD NORTH'S
Saturday January 17*th* 1778

Present

Earl of Suffolk	Earl of Sandwich
Lord North	Lord Amherst

Lord Amherst's opinion was desired upon the most eligible Mode of carrying on the War next Campaign in America.

Lord Amherst gave his opinion that it was not possible to reduce the Colonies by an Offensive War without an addition of 30,000 Men to the Force already in America—that under our present circumstances the future Operation must be principaly Naval, to distress their Trade and prevent their Supplies from Europe—that Canada, Nova Scotia, Rhode Island, New York and the Floridas should be secured, and if possible Philadelphia—that the Force in Canada should not be less than 9 or 10,000 Men—at Halifax 4,000—Rhode Island 2,500—New York 12,000—East Florida 4,000—Philadelphia (if kept) 12,000—that the Reinforcement for Canada and Halifax should be directly from home ; for St. Augustine, to the General for his disposition.

It was also apprehended that it would be absolutely necessary to send 3 or 400 Men from home as early as possible to Newfoundland and perhaps a Company to Bermudas.

No. 2171—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of transmitting to his Majesty a minute of a Cabinet held this evening in Downing Street. Although they have come to a resolution respecting only a part of Lord Amherst's opinion, they talked over the whole of it. The necessity of communicating this plan to the Commander in Chief ; the manner of doing it ; who should be the Commander in chief ; and the method to be taken to signify his Majesty's pleasure to Sir Wm. Howe if he remains at the head of the army ; the reinforcements to Canada and E. Florida, were all consider'd, but postponed for a day or two that Lord G. Germain might be made acquainted with the business. The Lords came to a resolution upon that business which would not admit of any delay. They wish, if possible, to have an old Corps sent to Halifax, thinking that part too important to be trusted entirely to new Levies.

Lord North incloses a letter from the City with an account of the state of the subscription last night.

Downing Street,
Jany. 18 [1778], 12 *o'clock* P.M.

No. 2172.

Minute of Cabinet.

[In the King's handwriting.]

At Lord North's
Downing Street, January 18*th* 1778

Present

Lord Chancellor	Lord Suffolk
Lord President	Lord Sandwich
Lord Privy Seal	Lord Weymouth

Lord North

Lord Suffolk communicated to the Lords present a minute of Lord Amherst's Opinion concerning the most proper mode, and the necessary Force for carrying on the War in North America; which was taken yesterday morning at Lord North's by some of the Lords of the Council and is annexed to this minute.

The Lords are of opinion that 400 Men should be sent as soon as the Season will admit to Newfoundland and a Company not short of 50 Men to the Bermudas.

That 2,500 Men should be sent as soon as possible to Halifax, and that the reinforcement should be composed of the two new Corps which shall be the first raised, and an Old Battalion, if an old Corps can be spared from Great Britain.

That the Admiralty do give immediate orders for preparing the Transport Vessels necessary for conveying these reinforcements to their respective destinations.

No. 2173—*Lord Barrington to the King.*

War Office,
19*th Jan.* 1778,
past 4 *o'clock.*

I have seen General Harvey, who (tho better and as Mr. Adair thinks now in a good way) is not to be *entrusted* for his own sake with much business; but he would keep the Papers your Majesty was pleased to send me this morning, and will return them to me soon, with any remarks or opinions which shall occur to him.

I hope I shall be able with other good assistance to get thro the business of the present important moment, without runing the risk of General Harvey's relapse by consulting him too often.

The Letter herewith inclosed I venture to send to your Majesty as the Duke of Athol desires you may see it *immediately.* I also enclose a Copy of the letter from me which has occasion'd this answer. BARRINGTON.

I will bring the Papers entrusted to me by your Majesty this morning, to St. James on Wednesday : no man living but General Harvey shall know the contents of them.

No. 2174—*The King to Lord North.*

LORD NORTH—I cannot help saying that nothing can be more detrimental in case of an European War than the idea of sending in our present Weak State another Old Corps out of Great Britain ; but I will not object on this occasion provided it is understood that the 400 Men for Newfoundland and the Company for Bermudas is of the New levies. The 70th is the Regiment to whom this Duty will fall which is very advantageous to the Admiralty as the Regiment is in Scotland and Lord Sandwich thinks he can get transports cheaper at Leith than in the Thames.

QUEENS HOUSE,
Jany. 19*th* 1778.

Draft, endorsed by the King.

No. 2175—*Lord Barrington to the King.*

WAR OFFICE,
20*th January* 1778.

I have the honour to return herewith to your Majesty the Papers entrusted to me, and which I have received back from Lt. Genl. Harvey. He thinks the 70th Regiment should be compleated to its numbers previous to the late augmentation.

BARRINGTON.

I observe that the number required for all the Stations in N. America according to the minute of the 17th January amounts

to 44,500 men : the establishment of the *regular* troops in that part of the world amounts to more than that number. I do not know the amount of the Provincials.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2176—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of transmitting to his Majesty a List of Officers proposed for the Edinburgh Volunteers. Mr. Dundas brought it to Lord North at Lord Barrington's desire, notwithstanding the repeated requests of Lord North that no business of that kind might be brought to him as it is impossible for him to give his time and attention to it, but he thinks it right to add, that Mr. Dundas assures him that this promotion is within the rules of the army, that the only objection made was that Capt. Gordon is upon Half pay, but Mr. Dundas says that he is so old a Captain that, upon his returning to the army he would have a Brevet of Major immediately, being older than many Majors that are now upon the List. Mr. Dundas wish'd that the Edinburgh address might be published in the Gazette. Lord North cannot find it and begs leave to ask his Majesty, whether it was return'd.

Sir George Osborn, being to remain in England in consequence of his late promotion, has written to Lord North a signification of his readiness to resign his employment of Muster-Master to the Foreign Troops. Lord North would be very glad if it could be given to Col. Burgoyne, although he is sensible that the same objection lies against him as against Sir George. But the situation of Col. Burgoyne's affairs is so embarrassed, that he will be driven to sell out of the army unless he is relieved in this manner. What Col. Burgoyne would intreat is, permission to go to America retaining his present Commission, a permission which he says has been granted to a Mr. White and a Mr. Elliot. If that cannot be, he would endeavour to exchange with a Lieutenant Colonel of Infantry in America. But he would be very sorry to be reduced to the last expedient, as he would lose his situation in the Dragoons, and therefore, earnestly wishes that the permission of serving in America might be granted to him. He is likewise very

active, and fond of his profession, and desirous of having an opportunity of distinguishing himself.

Downing Street,
Jan. 24 [1778],
$\frac{m}{35}$ *pt.* 12 P.M.

No. 2177—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 124.

Queens House,
Jany. 24th 1778.
$\frac{m}{12}$ *pt.* 2 P.M.

Lord North—The reason Lord Barrington desired Mr. Dundas to carry the List of proposed Officers for the Edinburgh Regiment to you, was from his having apprehended that the Gentlemen who forwarded that business had intended to act in the same handsome manner as the Glasgow Gentlemen who recomended no Officers; indeed I thought you had from Sir Lawrence intimated it; but I suppose I misunderstood you; I will on Monday give this List to the Secretary of War to examine the dates of the Commissions of the Gentlemen and then when he has recieved my final orders he shall see Mr. Dundas and thus you shall not be troubled further concerning this business. I do not recollect that you left the address with me.

I thoroughly approve of Mr. Burgoyne's succeeding Sir G. Osborne and will grant him a leave of absence so that he need not quit his Commission in the Dragoons.

No. 2178.

House of Commons.

Speakers 27th January 1778

on Mr. Fox's Motion for Papers relative to the Canada Expedition.

For it	Against it
Mr. Fox—to the Question and to Order.	Col. Lutterell. Mr. Rigby—to order.

For it	Against it
Mr. Chas. Turner—to order.	Lord North—to order and after.
Sir Alex. Leith.	Col. Lutterell finished to the Question—and acceded to the Motion.
Mr. Baker.	Ld. Nugent agt. it.
Mr. George Grenville.	Ld. Barrington agt. it but acceding.
Mr. J. Johnson.	
Mr. George Johnson.	
Mr. Adair.	

Carried in the affirmative without a Division.

Mr. Barre moved for the General Correspondence with the Commanders up to the present time.

For the Motion	Against it
Mr. Barre	Lord North.
Mr. Fox	
Mr. Burke	
Mr. Byng	
Mr. Adair	

The House divided :

Ayes 101
Noes 163.

No. 2179—*Lord North to the King.*

[29 *January*, 1778.]

Lord North has received the honour of his Majesty's letter concerning Lord Hertford's application to his Majesty. As the mode in which Lord Warwick intends to apply the subscription money of Warwickshire is not disapproved by his Majesty, Lord North imagines that it would be right for Lord Hertford to comply with Lord Warwick's wishes, and that it is best for the Nobility and Gentry to settle the rest among themselves, without making the Court and Ministry parties in the business.

Lord North incloses a note from Lord Pembroke for the honour of his Majesty's perusal; having learnt that Lord Herbert's company might be raised in his absence he wishes that he may be permitted to continue sometime longer abroad, and desired

Lord North to mention his wish to his Majesty, but matters of greater importance put the whole out of his head.

Indeed, the anxiety of his mind for the last two months has deprived Lord North of his memory and understanding. The promise he has made of bringing forward a proposition for peace with America, and the necessity he thinks there is, from the situation of affairs, of endeavouring to draw some of the Colonies from their claim and plan of independency upon Great Britain make him think it necessary to take some step of a pacifick kind in Parliament but the former opinions, the consistency, and the pride of his political friends and himself stand in the way of everything that would be effective, or, indeed, have the appearance of a proposition likely to be accepted in any part of America.

The direct proposition which might be successful in separating some Colonies from the rest is that the Colonies or any of them, upon renouncing their claim of independency should be exempt for the future from Parliamentary taxation. To give up the levying of positive taxes here is to give up in effect nothing, as it is pretty certain that none will for the future be ever levi'd by the British Parliament.

But the present friends of government will be hurt by being call'd upon to give up in Parliament, and explicitly the first subject of the quarrell, though in the end they are convinced it must end in this or worse. The Question carried in the affirmative, may put many people out of humour; carried in the negative, will render all accomodation with the Colonies more difficult. People might consent to go this length upon a promise of a proper constitution, but this having to be determined by Commissioners on both sides, no Colony would quit the confederacy for this advantage, if the enjoyment of it were to depend upon terms to be settled after they should have quitted their friends, and consequently put themselves at the mercy of Great Britain. Some objections would arise to this from the difficulty of wording the Act which under the name of taxation might give up a great deal more than is intended; and because, Ld. and Sir Wm. Howe being now vested with powers of giving up taxation for contribution, may have made a good bargain for Great Britain at the time that we are giving up the point merely and gratuitously for a renunciation of Independency.

These objections to the only very effectual measure have made

Ld. North have recourse to another plan, but which, though approved by the Solicitor Genl. and consented to by the Atty. General will certainly meet with much contradiction. It is in few words. To repeal the Tea Duty, to repeal the Massachusetts Charter Bill, and to give, by Act of Parliament, ample promises to Commissioners to settle every other point. A sketch, though not a very exact one of this plan is inclosed as drawn by the Solicitor General. This will probably be much opposed on one side, treated as trifling on the other, and after displeasing many friends here, have little effect in America. But it is the best proposition Lord North has as yet been able to bring to any perfection, and he begs leave to inform his Majesty of the great assistance he has received from the zeal and labours of the Atty. and Solr. General.

The whole of this matter has been an additional proof to Lord North of his incapacity for the high and important office in which he is placed. A pacifick proposition appears to him necessary both for this country and America: Ld. North's declaration requires it; the situation of affairs requires it in Lord North's opinion; at the same time it may be very disgustful to the present zealous friends of government. If a proposal is made it must be a considerable and an explicit one and such as bids fair to have some effect in the Colonies. But what will do there, may offend and fail here, Lord North certainly cannot continue in office if he loses the question, or if he carries it much against the inclination of his friends; Lord North submits all these considerations to his Majesty and, professing himself ready to submit to everything that his Majesty commands, desires his Majesty to read over the inclosed proposition, and to consider the more direct, and, what Lord North thinks, the better proposal mentioned in this note, and to let him know his Majesty's pleasure. Lord North is in such a situation that, whatever he does must be attended with some disgrace, and much misery to himself, and, what is worse, perhaps, with some detriment to the public. In this case, perhaps, a change which might bring into his room some person less pledged than himself might be of advantage to his Majesty's service. He submits the whole to his Majesty's pleasure, and, though his health and his understanding are greatly impaired by struggling so long in an office, and in circumstances to which he has always been unequal, he would not on that

account suggest a thought of retiring, unless the singularity of his present situation did not make him think it his duty to mention it.

No. 2180—*The King to Lord North.*

QUEENS HOUSE,
Jany. 30*th* 1778.
$\frac{m}{25}$ *pt.* 6 P.M.

Yesterday Lord Hertford shewed unto me the letter he had received from Lord Warwick, stating the desire he had that a County meeting might be conveened to form a Subscription for raising a number of Recruits sufficient for compleating one Regiment of Infantry, that the Towns of Coventry, Birmingham and Warwick were zealous for the measure ; I very candidly told him that Lord North could have no objection to this mode if approved by him the Lord Lieutenant, that as to myself I was very clear Lord Warwick if thwarted in this proposal would lay the whole blame on him Lord Hertford, on which he consented to write to the Sheriff to authorise him to summon this meeting ; this letter will be sent unless I this evening send to him to make him change his mode ; I therefore state the whole to Lord North, and if I do not hear from him shall let the affair be conducted in the mode I have settled.

No. 2181—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of sending to his Majesty a Drat of a letter which Mr. Robinson intends to write to Mr. Wentworth with his Majesty's approbation. Mr. Wentworth must be the purchaser and the shipper of the goods and must fix upon the consignee at New York, who will continue either to send the profits or the goods themselves to Mr. D. in Connecticut.

Lord North avails himself of the same opportunity of conveying to his Majesty several papers he has received from Mr. Wentworth. The most important are Mr. D's proposals, to which are added some pieces of intelligence Mr. W. received from him. There is likewise a bundle of letters which Dr. B[ancrof]t sent to

Mr. W. while out of England, and which are not of much consequence now. Lord North has taken the liberty of sending also two letters which Mr. W. has lately received from Amsterdam.

Friday Evening [? 30 *January*, 1778].

No. 2182—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 125.

Lord North—The letter I received from you the last evening was of so serious a nature, that you cannot be surprised, that I chose to deferr answering it untill this day.

I should have been greatly hurt at the inclination expressed by you to retire, had I not known that however you may now and then be inclined to despond, yet that you have too much personal affection for me, and sense of honour, to allow such a thought to take any hold on your mind.

You must feel how very entirely I have confided in you since you have presided at the Treasury, how fairly you have been supported by your Colleagues in the Administration, how sincerely you are loved and admired by the House of Commons, and how universally esteemed by the Public; indeed these reflections must rouze your mind and enable you to withstand situations still more embarrassing than the present.

You will remember that before the recess, I strongly advised you not to bind yourself to bring forward a proposition for restoring tranquility to North America, not from any absurd ideas of unconditional submission my mind never harboured; but from foreseeing that whatever can be proposed, will be liable, not to bring America back to a sense of attachment to the Mother Country, yet to dissatisfy this Country, which has in the most handsome manner chearfully carried on the contest, and therefore has a right to have the struggle continued, untill convinced that it is in vain.

Perhaps this is the minute of all others that you ought to be the least in an hurry to produce any plan of that kind; for every letter from France adds to the appearance of a speedy declaration of War; should that event happen, it might perhaps be wise to strengthen the Forces in Canada, the Floridas, and Nova Scotia, withdraw the rest from North America and without loss of time,

employ them in attacking New Orleans, and the French and Spanish West India possessions. Success in those parts would repay us the great expenses incurred; we must at the same time continue destroying the Trade and Ports of the Rebellious Colonies, and thus soon bring both contests to a conclusion; and this Country having its attention diverted to a fresh object, would be in a better temper to subscribe to such terms as Administration might think advisable to offer America, who on her part will at such a time be more ready to treat, than at the present hour.

I do not mean by this to reject all ideas of your laying, if a Foreign War should not arise this Session, a proposition before Parliament; but I trust you will first fully state to the Cabinet your ideas, where I am persuaded you will find every Member willing with candour to examine them, after which you will lay the result before me; and when the whole is thoroughly [digested ?] shew it to the principal Men of business of the House of Commons, both in office, and those of weight with the Country Members, that the House may not as on a former occasion, from want of previous notice, be staggered and persons oppose from not understanding the subject before them.

QUEENS HOUSE,
Jany. 31*st* 1778.
$\frac{m}{25}$ *pt. one* P.M.

No. 2183—*The Bishop of London to Lord North.*

MY LORD—I have received the inclosed from Dr. Morgan, Confessor of His Majesty's Household. As the subject of it belongs to your Lordship's cognisance and seems to me to merit some attention, I beg leave to recommend it to your Lordship's favourable consideration.

I have the honour to be with the greatest Respect, My Lord, Your Lordship's Most Obedient humble Servt. R. LONDON.

Enclosure.

D. W. Morgan to the Bishop of London.

MY LORD—Having been informed that a Clergyman was appointed, by the Lord Chamberlain, this last Summer to read

Prayers at eight o'clock at the Chapel Royal at Windsor during his Majesty's stay there, I must intreat the favor of you to interfere so far as to prevent any innovation upon the ancient office of Confessor to His Majesty's Household; the Nomination to which, as appears by the late Dr. Sherlocks Memorial to the Lord Chamberlain is vested, unless during a vacancy, in the Dean.

Mr. Higgate, my Predecessor and those before him, used to read Prayers ev'ry morning at eight o'clock, administer the Sacrament also ev'ry Sunday throughout the year; Baptize the Children born in the House keeping a Register of the same, and visit all the Sick; a constant and laborious duty! for all which little more than forty pounds per Ann. is allowed: the Duty indeed lasted no longer at *St. James Chapel* than till the Court moved; as the Confessor always attended his Majesty, receiving an additional pay of seven shillings and sixpence per diem (as also two guineas a week for Lodging) for continuing Similar Duty at Windsor or Hampton Court at either of which places his Majesty might be.

Now, my Lord, my Place is by no means so advantageous as it used to be, for ever since the King came to the throne I have read prayers every morning, and performed the other Offices required of me for the same stipend as Mr. Higgate had for doing little more than half the Duty I do: for when his late Majesty went to *Kensington* the Lord Chamberlain, owing to my Predecessors neglecting his duty, appointed a Reader there in consequence of which the Duty was continued only on *Sunday mornings* at St. James.

Allow me therefore, to beg of your Lordship, if I may not be permitted to go to Windsor as my Predecessors did, yet not to be obliged to do more Duty than was required of them unless an allowance equal to that granted to the Readers at White Hall as also to the gentleman at present appointed by the Lord Chamberlain, is made me, viz. fourscore pounds per Ann.

I presume, my Lord, my Request will not be thought unreasonable as by my Office I rank with the Sub-Dean upon all Public occasions; and when the Court went to Hampton the Reader always used to give place to the Confessor.

Your kind interposition Sir, in behalf of myself as well as the Office which is under your Lordship's direction, will most likely put my place upon its former establishment; I cannot conclude,

my Lord, without observing that thro an ill state of Health I have been obliged to do the major part of my Duty by Deputy, paying more in proportion than what I have received; under these Circumstances I flatter myself with the hopes of redress.

I am, My Lord, Your Dutiful and obed. Humble Servant

St. James' House, D. W. Morgan.
January 1778.

No. 2184—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 129.

Lord North—The extracts you have enclosed from letters written to Mr. Wentworth from France are certainly of great importance.

Though Lord Chatham's name (which was always his greatest merit) is undoubtedly not so great as formerly yet it will greatly hurt Lord Rockingham's party with many factious Persons to see that he disavows the unjustifiable lengths they would go in favour of America, and will therefore prove a fortunate event to the introducing into Parliament the proposal you intend to make of new arranging the Commission, encreasing the power of the Commissioners, and getting rid of some Acts of Parliament that are in the present state of affairs a barr to forming any solid reconciliation with that Country.

As I look upon the recall of G. Howe as a measure settled, it is natural to expect that Lord Howe will also beg to return home; but that though expected cannot be publicly looked upon as certain therefore he must be named in the New Commission; but if he comes home, I think neither the General nor Admirals in America need be in the Commission but Peers and Commoners from hence. As your mind must be fully employed I will not detain you longer on this occasion.

Queens House,
Feby. 2nd 1778.
$\frac{m}{2}$ *pt.* M.

No. 2185—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 130.

Lord North—I trust that when next the Committee on the state of the Nation is resumed, Gentlemen will be more ready to speak; as you of course must wait for the conclusion of it, I should think on such an occasion Lord G. Germaine might with great propriety have said a few words to put the defence in motion.

Queens House,
Febry. 2nd 1778.
$\frac{m}{40}$ *pt.* 10 P.M.

No. 2186—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 131.

Undoubtedly if the intelligence sent by Benson is founded, France has taken her part and a War with G. Britain must soon follow.

I enclose a very sensible letter from Lord Barrington as to the raising Men in case that measure should be thought advisable at this hour; I perfectly agree with him that though from old habits in Scotland Corps may be the best method in that part of the Kingdom, that it does not in the least hold as to Ireland, and that what the Secretary at War proposes is much fairer to the Army and if tried will certainly answer the purpose.

Queens House,
Feby. 3rd 1778.
$\frac{m}{44}$ *pt.* 2 P.M.

No. 2187—*Lord Barrington to the King.*

Cavendish Square,
3rd Feb. 1778.

As your Majesty was pleased to mention yesterday to me an Idea of raising men in Ireland, I think it my duty to submit to

your consideration whether the best methode would not be, that the Lord Lieutenant should permit proper Lieutenants to raise Companies on the usual conditions, like those raising in Wales; to be afterwards formed into Corps; or draughted to compleat old Regiments, as was practised last war, in England. By this means the Irish Army would get a little promotion in the inferior ranks, and the members of both Houses gratify'd, as their friends would reap a good part of the benefit of this levy, either as Captains, Lieutenants or Ensigns. As nobody in Ireland has any Clan or following, the reasons given for raising Highlanders *in Corps* does not in the least degree apply; and Captain Dalrymples success (entirely owing to his officers) plainly shews that the men are raised by the Captains and Subalterns.

I hope your Majesty will pardon my well intended presumption on this occasion. BARRINGTON.

No. 2188—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 131.

LORD NORTH—It appears to me very essential that you should be thoroughly apprized of the language held by Lord George Germaine on your plan for opening a negociation with America, he said this day unto me, that he was convinced the repeal of the Boston Charter Act would not alone bring the Colonies into any proposition, that the Declaratory Act though but waste paper was what galled them the most; that he should not like nominally to be drove to repealing it; therefore if any step was to be taken at this hour he would wish it might such as might not require any farther concessions, he therefore wished all the Acts might be repealed subsequent to 1763. That he would fairly owne the taking any step at this juncture might either be conducive to hurrying France into a Treaty with the Rebels, or it might make the Colonies less inclined to treat with that invidious Nation, that he could not decide which seemed most probable.

No. 2189—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 132.

Lord North—I had flattered myself that the long debates of Wednesday and Thursday would have inclined all parties in the House of Commons to have ended the last night at a more seasonable hour.

Queens House,
Feby. 7th 1778.
$\frac{m}{20}$ *pt.* 9. A.M.

No. 2190—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 133.

Lord North—The intelligence communicated by Mr. Wentworth if certain, shews the veil will soon be drawn off by the Court of France, which makes me wish you would not delay bringing your American Proposition, after proper Communications to the Leading Persons, into the House of Commons ; and should a French [war] be our fate, I trust you will concurr with me in the only means of making it successful, the withdrawing the greatest part of the [troops] from America and employing them against the French and Spanish Settlements but if we are to be carrying on a Land War against the Rebels and against those two Powers it must be feeble in all parts and consequently unsuccessful.

Queens House,
Feby. 9th 1778.
$\frac{m}{5}$ *pt.* 9.

No. 2191—*Lord North to the King.*

[? 8 *February,* 1778.]

Lord North has the honour of informing his Majesty of a circumstance which, when he was this morning at St. James's,

he forgot to mention. He finds that Lord Suffolk's earnestness for the order of the Garter is not diminished, and that he will consider himself as much more gratified, if his Majesty will, in filling the present three vacancies, nominate him for one of them, than if he should in consequence of an alteration of the Statutes of the order, be one of a creation of seven or eight knights. Lord North submits to his Majesty that it is a matter of great consequence in the present moment to please Lord Suffolk, as there is nobody more steady, and resolute, and active, and more fit to lead the business of the Crown in the House of Lords. If his Majesty intends to alter the Statute, that intention may be made known to the candidates at the time of the creation of the first three knights, and may take place soon after. There happens, at present, to be no Knight of the Garter of the name of Howard, which makes Lord Suffolk, who has strong feelings upon the antiquity and dignity of his family, more eager for this distinction; and more nice as to the manner in which it may be confer'd.

Downing Street,
$\frac{1}{2}$ *pt.* 4. P.M.

No. 2192—*The King to Lord North.*

Lord North—The very silly delicacy of Lord Suffolk of not being elected a Knight of the Garter on the Vacancies that will arise when I alter the number of Knights of the Garter, by the Sovereign and all his sons being of that Order exclusive of the 26 Knights, is the sole cause of his not yet having the Garter; for only three are vacant, and Lords Suffolk, Holdernesse, Rochford and Weymouth know they are to be of the first Election. If any one of the four or another Knight should die I can give these before I alter the Statute, but otherwise unless he changes his mind he must have patience.

Queens House,
Feby. 9th 1778.
$\frac{m}{53}$ *pt.* 5 P.M.

No. 2193—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of inclosing to his Majesty a long letter which he has just received from my Lord Chancellor, by which he conjectures that his Lordship is inclined to leave the administration. Indeed this is to be expected from other quarters, and Lord North begs leave to submit to his Majesty, that it will be right to turn in his thoughts some plans of alterations in the administration, for, as Lord North has more than once suggested to his Majesty, such a measure will certainly become necessary in a short time.

Upon the D. of Northumberland's visits to Lord Chatham, the latter lamented the situation of the country, expressed himself afraid that it was too late to save it, but added that no man would undertake that perilous task, unless call'd upon by the King, and a pretty general power put into his hands.

Lord North thinks it right to mention all he knows to his Majesty. There is no doubt but if a change of administration should become requisite, Lord Chatham is of all the opposition, the person who would be of most service to his Majesty, and probably, the least extravagant in his demands.

Downing Street,
Feby. 16*th* 1778.

No. 2194—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 133.

Queens House,
Feby. 17*th* 1778.
$\frac{m}{59}$ *pt.* 10 P.M.

Lord North—I sincerely rejoice that the measures proposed by you this day have passed without any Division, and I trust this beginning will prevent your meeting with much difficulty in the farther Steps of this Affair.

Lord Chancellor this day wrote to Lord Suffolk to notify his having declined any farther attending confidential meetings, and returned the key to the Correspondence boxes. Upon which I

wrote to Lord Suffolk to go to him and point out the mistake which had occasioned his warmth; I have just received from him an account that the Lord Chancellor has consented to take back the Key, that he expresses great esteem for all the Members of the Cabinet except Lord G. Germaine; I hope you will to-morrow see Ld. G. G. and settle the transmitting a proper account of the propositions to America, and a suitable letter to Sir W. Howe that may encourage him to act with spirit untill the arrival of his Successor.

No. 2195—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 136.

Lord North—The long letter you received yesterday from the Lord Chancellor was so full of ungrounded suspicion and warmth, that I thought it best not to return it unto you, untill I could learn from Lord Suffolk what had past at the Dinner on Saturday, it was impossible I could see him till late the last Evening on account of the Debate in the House of Lords, and therefore I judged it best to desire him to go and state the affair to you if possible last night. I totally agree with the Second letter I received in the Evening from you that Lord George Germain ought to have wrote less coldly to Sir W. Howe though he conveyed unto him the permission to return home; but it is not too late to remedy this for the Andromeda a new Copper bottomed Ship is ordered to be ready to carry to America the result of your Propositions, it would be highly proper that Lord G. Germain should by this conveyance communicate to the General the idea of changing the Plan of War, which he may very properly attribute to the opinion I have of the General and his having intimated that on the present mode, and with his present force, he could only the next Campaign maintain what he has now in his possession; but leaving the General a latitude to do what may seem to him most eligible untill the Arrival of Sir H. Clinton or some other Successor.

I trust if Lord G. Germain writes to the General agreably to this Idea that it will cost you very little conversation to remove any Suspicions of the Lord Chancellor.

I return Mr. Forth's letter which I think much the clearest I have ever read from that correspondent.

The conduct of France seems most strange, War is the object of the Young Officers, to avoid the wish of the Minister, yet he will run so near the Wind that most probably the two Nations will be involved; Spain by the letters of yesterday seems not to expect it at present, for Count Florida Blancha has notified to Lord Grantham, that Mr. Almodovar is nominated to succeed Prince Masserano, and that he is to leave Madrid by the beginning of next Month.

I am desirous of knowing how this day's Debate is supported; as to Numbers, I do not in the least fear that they will prove highly honourable to you, and therefore I wish it may be shewn that the efficient Men in the House of Commons have zealously supported by their Speeches what will have been proposed from no other view but a wish to serve both Countries, I cannot conclude without warmly expressing my sentiments that your conduct is always actuated by a desire of effecting those laudable and very compatible objects.

QUEENS HOUSE,
Feb. 18*th* 1778.
$\frac{m}{34}$ *pt.* 9. A.M.

No. 2196—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 138.

LORD NORTH—The letter transmitted to you by Major Ackland enclosing the copy of the one he had wrote to Lord Howe is highly important, as it contains the seeds of great heart-burnings as well as distress in the rebellious Colonies, which I am persuaded would have greatly encouraged the idea of such a proposition as has been made, had it arrived before you had taken that step.

By a letter from the Commissary at Dunkirk I find the French Court have stoped the Ireland and Newfoundland Fishermen, which undoubtedly carries the appearance of immediate War; when once you have got the Loan it may behove to talk a little

more openly upon these untoward appearances; but till then I think it is not necessary.

QUEENS HOUSE,
Feb. 24*th* 1778.
$\frac{m}{40}$ *pt.* 5. P.M.

No. 2197—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 139.

LORD NORTH—The House of Commons sate certainly much later than you had expected, but on the other hand you have got the Bill into the Committee which is a step farther than you had expected by what you mentioned yesterday unto me. In your note there was no list of the Speakers, which if it can be made out I wish to see as on this occasion many Men will probably appear on Sides they do not usually. The more I think on the conduct of the Advocate of Scotland the more I am incensed against him; more favours have been heaped on the shoulders of that Man than ever were bestowed on any Scotch Lawyer, and he seems studiously to embrace an opportunity to create difficulties; but Men of tallents when not accompanied with integrity are pests instead of blessings to Society and true wisdom ought to crush them rather than nourish them.

QUEENS HOUSE,
Feb. 24*th* 1778.
$\frac{m}{13}$ *pt.* 9. P.M.

No. 2198—*Thomas Desaguliers to the King.*

February 28*th* 1778.

SIR—It is with the most painful reluctance that I presume to inform your Majesty that my infirmities are such as to incapacitate me from performing the duties of my office in attending your Majesty's Person on horseback. The wound I recieved in my head has of late caus'd such repeated giddyness that I have been frequently very near dropping in your Majesty's Presence: about three months ago, on a visit, I was seiz'd so violently with that disorder, that I was depriv'd of my senses for some hours,

and cou'd not be sent home untill the day following; since that time, I have had some other, almost fatal attacks, in the night; strong exercise when I am ill, frequently brings them on.

Permit me Sir, to express my most grateful sense of all your Majesty's goodness to me, and to add that the sufferings of my mind are still superior to those of my body, by feeling myself compell'd to the necessity of taking this step.

As my utmost ambition is to dedicate the remainder of my life to your Majesty's service, I propose living intirely at Woolwich, at which place, if your Majesty should be graciously pleas'd to grant me an appointment in lieu of that which I am unhappily oblig'd to lay down; I shall then, not only be enabled to live up to my rank, but humbly hope, that I shou'd have it in my power, to be of the utmost use in that department of your Majesty's Service, which for near forty years, I have with unwearied application, endeavour'd to acquire a perfect knowledge of.

Your Majesty's ever dutiful Subject and Servant,

THOMAS DESAGULIERS.

No. 2199.

SHIPS THAT WILL BE COMPLEATED THIS YEAR.

[In the King's handwriting.]

[? *February*, 1778.]

	Guns		
At Deptford	74	Alcide	June
	36	Flora	November
	28	Pegasus	May
At Chatham	74	Montagu	September
Merchants Yards	44	Serapis	June
	Bomb	Terror	June
	44	Endymion	August
	28	Vestal	August
	28	Mercury	July
	28	Cyclops	July
	24	Pandora	May
	14	Bonetta	April

	Guns		
	14	Alert	June
	14	Thorn	19th this month
	24	Champion	April
	28	Laurel	September
	50	Hanibal	September
	28	Brilliant	May
Merchants	32	Cleopatra	September
Yards	28	Crescent	this Month
	24	Siren	June
	44	Ulysses	April
	50	Adamant	August
	28	Nemesis	September
	14	Shark	September
	14	Fury	March
Woolwich	74	Edgar	April
	38	Minerva	November

RECAPITULATION

3 of 74 Guns
2 „ 50
3 „ 44
1 „ 38
1 „ 36
1 „ 32
7 „ 28
3 „ 24
5 „ 14
1 Bomb

27 New Ships

No. 2200—*Lord Barrington to the King.*

CAVENDISH SQUARE,
1*st March* 1778.

I have the honour to send herewith to your Majesty a new List of the Army, and I will bring one to St. James's.

I venture to inclose a note which I recd. this morning from the Duke of Gordon ; and a Letter from Mr. West, in consequence of which he has been notified for the Lieutenancy in the Horse Grenadier Guards. BARRINGTON.

Enclosure.

Duke of Gordon to Lord Barrington.

The Duke of Gordon presents his Compliments to Lord Barrington—as he sees by the paper that there is a Regiment vacant he hopes his Lordship (as his friend General Morris is absent) will be kind enough to lay his claim before his Majesty.

UPPER GROSVENOR STREET,
Saturday 28th Feb.

No. 2201—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 139.

QUEEN'S HOUSE,
March 3rd 1778.

LORD NORTH—I have very carefully read over Mr. Eden's papers concerning the commission, and very readily consent to his having £1000 to enable him to fit himself for the business on which he is going to be employed ; but do not think the Commissioners ought to be Privy Counsellors, and there is a very forcible reason against it, Sir Henry Clinton is in America consequently cannot be called to the Privy Council and I am persuaded you must see how bad an effect it would have the making the Commander of the Troops the last instead of the second in the Commission. When Mr. Eden knows I have instantly ordered the pecuniary assistance he has desired it will convince him I approve of his accepting the offer you have made him of being one of the Commissioners ; I am certain the making those gentlemen Privy Counsellors would give offence to many and be of no utility, parade is not the object of the mission but business.

No. 2202—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 140.

QUEEN'S HOUSE,

March 3rd 1778 $\frac{m}{30}$ *pt.* 4 P.M.

LORD NORTH—I have received the Box with the voluminous enclosures, which I shall return this evening, and since that your note accompanying the enclosed note from Mr. Eden. I owne, I think Lord G. Germaine's defection a most favourable event, he has so many enemies, that would have made him an heavy load whenever the failure of the expedition under Lt. G. Burgoyne came to be canvassed in Parliament, yet I never would have recommended his removal unless with his own good will now he will save us all trouble, the laying it on my bequeathing the Government of Charlemount on Carleton is quite absurd and shews the malevolence of his mind. Carleton was highly wrong in permitting his pen to convey such asperity to a Secretary of State and therefore has been removed from the Government of Canada, but his meritorious defence of Quebec made him a proper object for a Military reward, and as such I could not think of providing for any other General till I had repaid the Debt his services had a right to claim.

No. 2203—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North begs leave to add to Mr. Thornton's papers two letters from Mr. Forth and some papers sent this morning from Mr. Wentworth to Mr. Eden. He submits likewise to his Majesty several letters from the latter upon the subject of the Commission, which his Majesty will see were not intended for his perusal, but Lord North thought that he could not by extracting them make the purport of them sufficiently clear to his Majesty.

DOWNING STREET,
Tuesday Mar. 3 [1778].

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2204—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 142.

The papers communicated by Mr. Thornton are very curious, those from Edwards and Forth, convince me that France will inevitably go to War, it therefore becomes highly necessary to consider whether Lord Stormont should not soon complain of the open assistance now given by France to the Rebels which has drove us to the unpleasant necessity of visiting their Merchant Ships in the open Seas, and to demand a categorical answer whether they have signed any Treaty with the Rebels also whether Lord Grantham should not be directed to communicate this to Spain and complain of the protection given to the Rebel cruizers. If France on this takes off the Mask whether it ought not to be considered whether the Season is too far advanced for an attack on the West India Settlements of France, or whether to be delayed untill the Autumn in either case the troops for that service must be taken from North America. If Spain is not very explicit a Fleet must be stationed to seize the Flotta coming from the Havana, and a Corps of 2,000 men to be sent by Sir Henry Clinton to conquer New Orleans.

A couple of Regiments of Foot must be sent to Ireland and additional Companies to them and the other Regiments in that Kingdom raised there to strengthen the Forces in that Island.

I write these thoughts hastily as they occurr that Lord North may have these various matters in his head for consideration but untill the Budget is opened and the American [commission] passed and the commissioners embarked I think it wisest not to be in an hurry.

Queen's House,
March 3rd 1778.
$\frac{m}{50}$ *pt.* 6 P.M.

No. 2205—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of enclosing a note, he has just received from Mr. Thornton.

Lord North has the honour of informing his Majesty that the Loan of six millions are subscribed but upon exhorbitant terms.

The subscriber to have £100 3 per cents	67. 10. 0
An annuity of £2.10.0 for 30 years which the subscriber values at 14 years purchase	35. 0. 0
Eight lottery tickets for every £1000 subscribed in a lottery of 48000 tickets which the subscriber values at £3 p^{r} ticket	2. 8. 0
	£104. 18. 0

This the subscriber calls a premium of £4.18. and if the stocks continue falling it will not be so much, but if they remain at their present price or rise, the premium will be greater than the subscriber allows it to be, so that upon the whole, the subscriber has availed himself of the critical moment in which this country stands to extort an extravagant bargain.

Friday,
Mar. 6th [1778].

No. 2206—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 143.

The intelligence from Mr. Thornton of the discontents among the Leaders in America if authentick will not only greatly facilitate the bringing that deluded country to some reasonable ideas, but will make France reconsider whether She ought to enter into a War when America may leave her in the lurch.

Lord North is too well acquainted with Moneylenders, to be surprised at their availing themselves of the present minute to make as advantageous a bargain for themselves as the necessities of the times make them in a great degree certain of obliging the Treasury to submit to.

St. James's,
March 6th, [1778] $\frac{m}{53}$ *pt.* M.

No. 2207—*Lord North to the King.*

[? *March*, 1778.]

Lord North has received the honour of his Majesty's commands. He has given directions for drawing an answer to the address of the House of Commons, and will not fail to send it to St. James's as soon as it is finished. He assures His Majesty that his importunity upon a subject, so disagreable to him proceeds from a desire to save his Majesty and this country in this dangerous crisis, which, in his conscience he thinks himself incapable of conducting so as to have any hopes of seeing them honourably and happily relieved from their present difficulties. It is not upon slight experience that he is convinced of his own inability even in moments of much less danger than the present. He acknowledges his Majesty's great and repeated goodness to him, but he should be highly unworthy of the continuance of it, if he should pretend to be equal to a trust of such magnitude. A thousand circumstances point out the expedience of some alterations and though they may be accompanied with very disagreable circumstances to Lord North, He will, as he ought, abide any consequences rather than undertake what he can not perform and flatter his Majesty with the hopes that he can serve him efficaciously when he thinks that the continuing the present system will operate the ruin of his affairs. Parliament is undoubtedly zealous for his Majesty and sensible of what they owe to so good and gracious a Prince. The loan is now compleated, but not, I believe, without the expectation of some help from Government, but notwithstanding these appearances Lord North thinks it highly probable that the first unfortunate accident will throw the country into the utmost confusion unless some new hands are employed in the conduct of his Majesty's affairs. Lord North hopes that his Majesty will do justice to his motives in the advice he gives. The situation of the country obliges him to speak his sentiments freely.

No. 2208—*Lord Suffolk to the King.*

Thinking Your Majesty might like to know if any communications were made to us to-day, or not, about *an intended resignation*, I presume to send a line just to say that not a word was expressed on the subject, or any allusion to it.

St. James's,
March 7, 1778.
9 P.M.

No. 2209—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 144.

Queen's House,
March 9th 1778.
$\frac{m}{44}$ *pt.* 8 A.M.

Yesterday Lord Sandwich communicated unto me a letter he had received from Vice Admiral Mann containing indirect though very civil terms that his state of health disabled him from accepting a Command with which he should otherwise have felt much honoured. This obliged me to scan afresh the list of Admirals and I was glad to find that one had been that morning with Lord Sandwich to offer in the most ardent manner his services; it is Sir Charles Hardy who rather than not serve would resign the Government of Greenwich Hospital.

Sir Charles Hardy was second in Command to Lord Hawke in the engagement with Conflans, therefore ostensible, and Keppel and Lord Howe out of the case certainly as fit as any one high enough on the list for so considerable a Command, if you concurr in this which I owne necessity makes me not reject; I propose to insist on his taking an excellent Captain as Admiral's Captain and to have Digby and Sir John Ross as Rear Admirals under him, the merit of both of these is admitted by all the profession, and the advancing the latter will shew there is no mark against those who may have shewn heat on the late occasion consequently will heal some of the evil that has arisen from this unhappy business; my sole object is to destroy the kind of mutiny in the Corps and I believe the mode proposed is what

in the present situation will be the best that can be proposed, the Captain I allude to is Kempenfelt a great friend of Lord Clarendon, much respected by all parties and one well qualified to heal all little breaches.

I wish you would see Lord Sandwich this day and after hearing what he has to say, form your opinion that no time may be lost and that I may to-morrow give Lord Sandwich some directions for putting things into a train.

No. 2210—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 145.

Lord North—I return the communications from Mr. Wentworth and Mr. Thornton, the return of Deane is a very fortunate event as it gives full time to the news transmitted in the Andromeda to take effect, and I should naturally conclude may bring America to a state of tranquility.

I think it is right the Americans Bills should be passed as soon as convenient, I therefore had intended to have gone to the House of Lords for that purpose to-morrow ; but Lord Weymouth has just wrote that the Chancellor says there is a Bill of great consequence that will be ready for my Assent on Wednesday, I therefore shall deferr going untill that day.

Mr. Gilbert's proposition seems wild, and I do not see how it can be brought into any state that may be in the least either reasonable or feesible.

Queen's House,

March 9th 1778 $\frac{m}{58}$ *pt.* 11. P.M.

No. 2211—*Joseph Gurney to the King.*

Great Sir—Every liberal art having, under Your Majesty's auspicious protection, florished to a degree of eminence, unknown in former reigns ; I trust, that Your Majesty who is at once a most consummate judge and a most condescending patron of literary excellence, will not deem the art of *Short-hand* unworthy of Your Royal countenance and encouragement : especially, as

it is an art, peculiarly under Your Majesty's own dominions; as being entirely unknown, at present, to any people in the world, except to the subjects of your great Empire.

I therefore, with the most profound humility and devotedness, intreat your Majesty's gracious permission to dedicate this yet unpublished and improved edition of my Brachygraphy, to the most amiable and most accomplished Monarch upon earth.

I am, with inexpressible deference, Sire, Your Majesty's most dutiful subject and devoted servant. JOSEPH GURNEY.

SOUTHAMPTON BUILDINGS,
March 10*th* 1788.

No. 2212—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 146.

If Mr. Thornton's communication to Lord North is certain the present state of fluctuation will soon cease, and the Old Lion will be roused and must shew that Resolution and Activity that alone can keep his wonted station, and deserve the respect of other nations. I am certain war has not been sought by us, and therefore I shall do my utmost to withstand the malevolence of my foes. Would it not be right instantly to decide that the Manchester or Liverpool Regiment shall as soon as compleat be sent to reinforce the Garrison of Gibraltar instead of going to America. I should prefer them to that service, to an Highland Corps, and therefore mention it at this time.

QUEEN'S HOUSE,
March 10*th* 1778,
$\frac{m}{50}$ *pt.* 2 P.M.

No. 2213—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 147.

LORD NORTH—By the list of Speakers yesterday in favour of Mr. Fox's motion, I see Admiral Keppel took a part that will

disappoint Lord Sandwich, he having uniformly pretended that the Admiral though very adverse on all political points, is much of his opinion in Marine affairs.

You may remember that when Mr. Smelt retired from my service he made an application to me that his Uncle Mr. Cornelius Cayley might resign his place of Commissioner in the Alienation Office in favour of his son Edward Cayley ; you wished instantly to make out the appointment, but I desired it might be deferred untill he (Mr. Smelt) waited upon you before he went into Yorkshire, he happened not to find you at home, and your Levees had ceased for that season. I desire you will now put this promise into execution.

QUEEN'S HOUSE,

March 12*th* 1778 $\frac{m}{5}$ *pt.* 9 A.M.

No. 2214—*The King to Lord North.*

LORD NORTH—I am greatly pleased both questions have been carried by such great majorities, and that you have not been kept later.

QUEEN'S HOUSE,

March 12*th* 1778 $\frac{m}{55}$ *pt.* 8 P.M.

No. 2215—*Mr. Robinson to the King.*

Mr. Robinson begs leave to have the Honour to assure your Majesty that he will not fail to obey your Majesty's commands with all the Discretion possibly in his Power.

Mr. Robinson waited acknowledging the receipt of your Majesty's commands until he had seen Lord North to Day. He has this moment left his Lordship in good spirits, and he does not find anything that seems particularly to depress him ; the languor of yesterday he apprehends might most probably proceed from the Fatigue of the night before, and from a little Irritation

of His mind expecting to be teazed in the House yesterday about his Loan and his Taxes.

PARLIAMENT STREET,
13*th March* 1778 55/*m pt.* P.M.

No. 2216—*Lord Weymouth to the King.*

Your Majesty's servants have met this Evening, & after having deliberated on many objects, have determined to postpone the final decision of them 'till tomorrow, when the matters may be better arranged & the persons more enabled to decide. The only matter to be humbly proposed to Your Majesty tonight is, that an order be immediately this night sent to Lord Stormont to direct him to leave Paris without taking leave; a draught of the letter is annex'd, & will be immediately dispatch'd, if Your Majesty shall approve.

ST. JAMES *March* 13*th* [1778].
$\frac{m}{10}$ *past Eleven* P.M.

No. 2217—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of informing his Majesty, that the Taxes pass'd the Committee today without a division.

Taxes

5 per cent on the amount of the duties of excise except Malt, Beer, Soap, Hides & Candles	150,000
Suppression of the Discounts in the Revenue of the Customs	167,000
Additional Duty of $1\frac{3}{4}$ on Tobacco	61,000
Additional Duty of 4/8d. upon a Cwt. of Sugar.	326,000
	704,000
Sum required	660,000
Surplus	44,000

Mar. 14 [1778], 10 *o'clock* P.M.

No. 2218.

STATE OF OUR PRESENT NAVAL FORCE.

March 15, 1778.

[In Lord Sandwich's handwriting.]

Our whole force at home at present in commission consists of 55 Line of [battle] & 46 Frigates, including Sloops, Cutters, and 8 armed ships of 20 guns. Of these, 40 of the Line may be considered as applicable to immediate Service, the other 15 are getting forward, and if men can be had (upon which the whole depends) may allso soon be ready.

There are besides 8 ships under orders to be got ready for receiving men, and several others in succession which may be in proper forwardness to be commissioned before men will be procured for them. 2 fireships and 2 bomb vessells are allso under the same orders.

The 8 ships alluded to above are :—

	Guns
The Britannia	100
Royal George	100
Duke	90
Namur	90
Suffolk	74
Defence	74
Superb	74
Lyon	64

There are in foreign parts in commission 9 Line of Battleships.

No. 2219—*Lord North to the King.*

[15 *March*, 1778.]

Lord North has the honour of inclosing a sketch of a new administration and intreats his Majesty's sentiments, whether he would consent to such an arrangement, if feasable, whether it is feasable or not, he will not pretend to say but no step can be taken till his Majesty's opinion is fully known.

Lord North though conscious how totally unfit he is in every respect to cope with the present difficulties of the Country will submit to his Majesty's commands, but he thinks himself obliged in conscience most earnestly to represent to his Majesty that the ruin of his own affairs and of this country may not improbably be the consequence of his adhering too pertinaciously to the present administration and particularly to Lord North and of not sending for those, whose accession in the present moment, though it were only for their name might give a new turn to the situation of public affairs, and establish that degree of unanimity which is absolutely necessary in times like these.

Lord North feels that both his mind and body grow every day more infirm and unable to struggle with the hardships of these arduous times but he could reconcile himself to this state of misery as far as affects himself, if he did not see that his Majesty and the Nation were in most imminent danger of suffering the greatest evils by reposing so much in a person who is not equal to the execution of the trust.

Downing Street, *Sunday Morning.*

Endorsed by the King, March 15, 1778.

Enclosure.

Sketch of a Strengthening of the Administration.

[In the King's handwriting.]

	Ministry
Ld. Chatham Honours, and Emoluments, and perhaps of the Cabinet without any Office.	Ld. N. 1st Ld. Treasury & Chr. of the Exchequer.
	Mr. Thurlow, Chr.
	Ld. Gower President.
If two Secretaries only Ld. Suffolk and Ld. Shelburne.	*Ld. Suffolk Ld. Shelburne Sir J. Yorke } Secs. of State
	Ld. Weymouth Ld. Dartmouth } Privy Seal, Steward, Household
	Ld. Sandwich 1st Ld. Admiralty.

	Ministry
	Ld. Amherst Lt. G. on the Staff and a Member of the Cabinet.
	Solicitor Gl. Chief Justice Common Pleas and a Peer with promise of King's Bench.
	Mr. Dunning Attorney General.
Treasury of the Navy is a much better place than Secretary at War and would therefore require some compensation.	Col. Barré Comr. to the Colonies or Secretary at War with some advantage
	Mr. C. J. Fox Treasurer of the Navy.
	Gov. Johnstone some command in his profession.

No. 2220—*Lord North to the King.*

[15 *March*, 1778.]

Lord North has the honour of troubling his Majesty again upon the subject of his last letter in which he omitted one article, viz : a Peerage for Lord G. Germaine who is not in the Catalogue of Ministers.

Lord North thinks himself bound to duty to repeat that, (though he is ready to sacrifice every consideration to his Majesty's wishes) the present Ministry can not continue a fortnight as it is, and there is nothing which seems so likely to stem the first violence of the torrent as sending to Lord Chatham ; If His Majesty can not consent to that, and the plan of a Ministry which was sent to his Majesty this morning can not take place, he is afraid the whole system will break up, and his Majesty be in a short time more at the mercy of the opposition than he would be at that of Lord Chatham if he were now invited to take the lead of affairs. Lord Chatham would certainly be more reasonable than Lord Rockingham's party ; He would alter the Cabinet, but he would not proceed to remove persons from inferior departments and he would bring into government but a

few followers; add to this, that, in the manner of doing the business, he would be more attentive to the appearance of the dignity of the Crown, than the others.

Lord North having unburthened his mind, returns to his former declarations that he is at his Majesty's command but intreats his Majesty to think of himself and the Public and not to risk the ruin of both in order to preserve a Ministry who in all probability, will be over-thrown in three weeks.

Omnium was done yesterday at 2½ Discount. In order to hasten its fall Mr. de Messine acquainted every body that he met yesterday with the project presented by the Ambassador on Friday last.

Sunday, 12 *o'clock.*

Endorsed by the King, March 15, 1778.

No. 2221—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Mahon VI., Appendix, p. xxxvi.

[? 15 *March*, 1778.]

Lord North—On a subject that has for many months engrossed my thoughts, I cannot have the smallest difficulty instantly to answer the letter I have just received from you. My sole wish is to keep you at the head of the Treasury and as my Confidential Minister that end obtained, I am willing through your Channel to accept any description of person that will come devotedly to the support of your administration and as such do not object to Lord Shelburne and Mr. Barré who personally perhaps I dislike as much as Alderman Wilkes, and I cannot give you a strong proof of my desire to forward any thing you wish than taking this unpleasant step.

But I declare in the strongest and most solemn manner that though I do not object to your addressing yourself to Lord Chatham yet that you must acquaint him that I shall never address myself to him but through you and on a clear explanation that he is to step forth to support an Administration whenever you are to be first Lord of the Treasury and Chancellor of the Exchequer; and that I cannot consent to have any conversation with him untill the Ministry is formed that if he comes into this

I will as he supports you receive him with open arms. I leave the whole arrangement to you provided Lord Suffolk Lord Weymouth and my two able lawyers are satisfied as to this situation; but chuse Ellis for Secretary of War in preference to Barré who in that event will get a more lucrative employment but will not be so near my person.

Having said this I will only add to put before your eyes my most inmost thoughts, that no advantage to this country nor personal danger can ever make me address myself for assistance either to Lord Chatham or any other branch of the Opposition honestly I would rather lose the Crown I now wear than bear the ignominy of possessing it under their shackles, I might write volumes if I would state my feeling of my mind; but I have honestly fairly, and affectionately told you the whole of my mind, and what I will never depart from.

Should Lord Chatham wish to see me before he gives an answer, I shall most certainly refuse it I have had enough of personal negotiations and neither my dignity nor feelings will ever let me again submit to it.

Men of less principle and honesty than I pretend to may look on public measures and opinions as a game, I always act from conviction and certainly never can say but that I am shocked at the base Arts all these men have used therefore cannot go towards them; if they come to your assistance I will accept them.

You have now full powers to act, but I do not expect Lord Chatham and his crew will come to your assistance, but if they do not I trust the rest of the arrangements will greatly strengthen as it will give efficacy to Administration Thurlowe as Chancellor, Yorke as Secretary of State will be efficient men. Numbers we have already, Lord Dartmouth as Steward and Lord Weymouth as Privy Seal will please them both, I am certain Lord Weymouth's conduct on the last vacancy of the Seals gives him a right to this change if agreable to him.

No. 2222—*Lord North to the King.*

[15 *March*, 1778.]

Lord North has received the honour of his Majesty's note for which, as for the other numerous instances of his Majesty's

goodness he feels the deepest gratitude and begs leave to assure his Majesty that, though he thinks it duty to explain his sentiments fully to his Majesty, he has no idea of deserting his Majesty while his faculties of mind and body will enable him to continue in his service.

DOWNING STREET,
Sunday 2 *o'clock.*

Endorsed by the King, March 15, 1778.

No. 2223—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of inclosing in the Box for his Majesty's perusal Mr. Eden's narrative of two conversations he has had to-day; Lord North has heard from the D. of Northumberland that Lord Chatham's conversation is that he wishes to speak to his Majesty in order that his plans may not be misrepresented; that he expects to be a confidential Minister, that he must have the appearance of forming the Ministry, that the most important offices being filled with efficient men; Lord Chatham's desire would be in every thing to attend to the wishes of his Majesty.

DOWNING STREET,
2 *o'clock* A.M. *Mar.* 16 [1778].

No. 2224—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 149.

MY DEAR LORD—As you are now thoroughly apprized of the whole of my thoughts and feelings, you cannot want any explanation of my opinion of the language held to Mr. Eden the last evening; it is so totally contrary to the only ground upon which I could have accepted the services of that perfidious man that I need not enter more fully upon, Lord Chatham as Dictator as planning a new Administration I appeal to my letter of yesterday if I did not clearly speak out upon [*sic*], if Lord Chatham agrees to support Your Administration or (if you like the expression

better) the fundamentals of the present administration, Lord North the head of the Treasury Lords Suffolk, Gower, and Weymouth in great offices to their own inclinations, Lord Sandwich in the Admiralty, Thurlow Chanr. and Wedderburne a Chief Justice; I will not object to see that great man when Lord Shelburne and Dunning with Barré are placed already in office but I solemnly declare nothing shall bring me to treat personally with Lord Chatham; what the D. of Northumberland told you yesterday is the old game over again; if I saw Lord Chatham he would insist on as total a change as Lord Shelburne has yesterday thrown out. Therefore my Dear Lord you will now understand that I entirely stick to what I wrote to you yesterday from which I will not change one jot.

QUEEN'S HOUSE,
March 16*th* 1778.
$\frac{m}{28}$ *pt.* 8 A.M.

No. 2225—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North, Has the honour of receiving his Majesty's commands and begs leave to return his thanks for the repetition of his Majesty's great kindness towards him, which he is afraid may prove ruinous to the Public, and has, therefore, thought it his duty to lay his opinions frankly and fully before his Majesty. He would not have troubled him so often on a disagreable subject, were he not perfectly convinced that the present system will not do; that it must break up in a very short time; that a change, which will become necessary, will be greater and accompanied with more disagreable circumstances the longer it is delayed. The condition of the country is, indeed, most critical, and it is become next to impossible to carry on government, except upon a broad comprehensive plan which may in a great measure cripple opposition. There is no doubt but the opponents, perceiving that they stand on high ground, will urge their demands with great weight and perseverance, but, as Ld. Chatham's party is the smallest amongst the opposers of government, their demands will be the fewest and the most easily gratified. Lord North hopes that his Majesty will forgive the freedom with which

he writes. The very dangerous situation of public affairs must be his excuse. Lord North mentioned yesterday to Lord Amherst his intention of desiring his attendance in the Cabinet, and nominating him a Lieut. General on the Staff. He seemed much pleased with the distinction and express'd his readiness to give every assistance in his power.

Downing Street,
Monday, Mar. 16 [1778].

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2226—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 151.

Lord North—I am fully convinced that you are actuated alone from a wish not to conceal the most private corners of your breast in writing the letter you have just sent unto me ; but my Dear Lord it is not private pique but an opinion formed on an experience of a Reign of now seventeen years, that makes me resolve to run any personal risque rather than submit to opposition ; which every plan deviating from strengthening the present administration is more or less tending to, therefore I refer you to the genuine dictates of my heart which I put yesterday on paper and transmitted to you, and I am certain whilst I have no one object but to be of use to this country it is impossible I can be deserted and the road opened to a set of men who certainly would make me a slave for the remainder of my days and whatever they may pretend would go to the most unjustifiable lengths of cruelty and destruction of those who have stood forth in public office, of which you would be the first victim.

Queen's House,
March 16th 1778. $\frac{m}{10}$ *pt.* m.

Draft, endorsed by the King, and fair copy in the King's handwriting.

No. 2227—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 150.

Queen's House,
March 16th 1778.
$\frac{m}{45}$ *pt.* 10 P.M.

Lord North—So respectable a Majority this day on a question for papers that might naturally catch many is a very favourable event at the present moment; I have this day seen Admiral Keppel who will very properly accept the Command of the Fleet proposed for the defence of the Kingdom; he gave me the enclosed paper, with an apology that I might not attribute any political manoeuvre but his genuine sentiments as a Sailor; you will see by it he perfectly coincides with Lord Sandwich's language at Cabinet last night that the greatest part of the frigates must be recalled from North America and that what ships are left there must [be] collected at one place; I desire you will let me have the paper back tomorrow. I shall stay at home to-morrow morning and will hear what Lord Amherst thinks on the possibility of keeping posts in America and what whilst the French War lasts, and will desire him to be ready to attend your Cabinet to-morrow forenoon when he may state his sentiments and things be prepared, for we have not an hour to loose.

No. 2228—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of returning the paper of Admiral Keppel to his Majesty. The majority of last night was owing to the situation and necessity of affairs, and not to any confidence the House seems to have in the administration. Lord North declared that he would not quit his post, unless his Majesty and the public were ready to fill it with an abler person, and this he thought it necessary to do in hopes that an arrangement might be made to his Majesty's satisfaction by his continuing in place and not throwing matters into confusion by a hasty retreat, but he does most earnestly intreat his Majesty to desist from making his continuance a necessary condition of any arrangement, as, he

fears, that no Ministry can be formed which will be able to carry this nation through its present difficulties unless the point of continuing Lord North at the head of the Treasury is given up. Whilst office was only vexatious and troublesome, Lord North, though always sensible of his being unequal to his Post, obey'd his Majesty's commands by remaining in the situation where his Majesty had thought proper to place him. Though he often solicited and pressed his dismission he thought that he ought not to do anything disagreable to so good and gracious a Master, and therefore determined to wait till his Majesty should be pleased to release him. But the times have sadly changed their appearance and Lord North has too much reason to be afraid that a great part of our present distress is owing to the predilection which his Majesty has shewn to him, and to the perseverance with which he has continued him in office. The present situation of affairs requires *new* men and *able* men and Lord North would feel himself highly criminal if he should permit his interests and situation to stand in the way of any arrangement which may rescue his King and country from the present impending ruin. That he may be the victim selected by any new set of men is very possible but he has so much confidence in his own innocence and the protection of the Law that he does not fear the utmost of their resentment, and he will add, that capital punishment itself is, in Lord North's opinion, preferable to that constant anguish of mind which he feels from the consideration that his continuance in office is ruining his Majesty's affairs without resource. The nation may yet be saved, but much time is not left to do it in, and it can not be saved without a change of men, and particularly, of the first Lord of the Treasury. Lord North, therefore, most earnestly and humbly intreats his Majesty no longer to remain attach'd to that point, for, though Lord North will keep up a good countenance in public to prevent, if possible, the mischief that may arise from a contrary conduct, yet he can not continue much longer in office in any event, both because he is conscious that his continuance there is the ruin of the Public, and because his former incapacity is so much aggravated by his present distress of mind that he will soon be totally unfit for the performance of any ministerial duty. In this situation, he once more intreats that his situation may no longer be an absolute Bar to any negotiation from whence a prospect may

arise of benefit to the country at this alarming crisis. The longer it is delay'd, the more unreasonable will be the terms press'd upon his Majesty, because every day will add strength to those whom his Majesty may think proper to invite to his service; If Lord Chatham had been admitted when he first gave signs of a separation from Ld. Rockingham, he would have submitted to more reasonable terms than at present; he will now be more reasonable than he will be a fortnight hence, and sooner or later he or some other person in the opposition must be sent to, or this Nation is undone.

Downing Street,
Tuesday, Mar. 17 [1778].

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2229—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 152.

Lord North—I have just seen Lord Amherst and had a very full conversation with him, the result of which is; that he thinks if we collect the fleet at Halifax and leave the American Coast open, that the Rebels will instantly fit out a fleet and make an attack on the islands; he therefore thinks without loss of time orders should be sent to America to retire the Troops from Philadelphia to New York, giving the General orders to send such part of that Force to the Floridas as he think necessary to secure them from attacks, and instantly to send home the two regiments of Light Dragoons keeping the Horses for the service of the Army, as baggage horses or drawing cannon.

To let such part of the Frigates as are thought absolutely necessary to be brought home.

To direct the Admiral to appoint New York as his Port of Rendevous and employ his fleet in destroying all the Vessels in the American Harbours.

Newfoundland, Nova Scotia and Canada to be reinforced by some of the new raised Corps.

On the arrival of the Commissioners if they find America resolved to join France, then the General to evacuate New York

and Rhode Island, and those Troops to be employed in attacking the West Indian Islands.

I have just sent to Lord Weymouth directions to summon Lord Amherst to the Meeting you are to have this forenoon, where he will be ready to express his sentiments.

QUEEN'S HOUSE,
March 17th 1778
$\frac{m}{25}$ *pt.* 11. A.M.

Draft, endorsed by the King, and fair copy in the King's handwriting.

No. 2230—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 153.

LORD NORTH—I am grieved at your continually recurring to a subject on which we can never agree ; your letter is certainly personally affectionate to me, and shews no signs of personal fear ; but my Dear Lord no consideration in life shall make me stoop to Opposition ; I am still ready to accept any part of them that will come to the assistance of my present efficient Ministers ; but whilst any ten men in the kingdom will stand by me I will not give myself up into bondage ; my Dear Lord I will rather risk my Crown than do what I think personally disgraceful, and whilst I have no wish but for the good and prosperity of my Country, it is impossible that the nation shall not stand by me ; if they will not, they shall have another King, for I will never put my hand to what would make me miserable to the last hour of my life. Therefore my Dear Lord let Thurloe instantly know that I will appoint him Chancellor and the Sollicitor Gen. that if he does not chuse to be Attorney, we will treat with the Chief Justice of the Common Pleas that he may have that office.

QUEEN'S HOUSE,
March 17th 1778 $\frac{m}{25}$ *pt.* 11 A.M.

Draft, endorsed by the King, and fair copy in the King's handwriting.

No. 2231—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 155.

Lord North—Though your Messenger did not wait for an answer, I could not help just sending this note to express my satisfaction at the first payment of the Loan having been made this day; this with the Majority that will appear in Parliament will I trust put my affairs on a respectable foot; indeed your standing forth at this particular juncture will do you credit for I trust you know me toc well to doubt I can ever forget your conduct; indeed if real affection deserves any return you cannot fail exerting yourself on this Occasion for my service.

Queen's House,
March 17th 1778.
$\frac{m}{40}$ *pt.* 5 P.M.

No. 2232—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 155.

Lord North—A Majority in the House of Lords of 64, in the House of Commons of 150, and the first payment of the Loan made; had you the real Duty and Affection for my Person that I know is deep rooted in Your heart, common honesty and that Sense of honour which must reside in the breast of every Man born of a Noble family, would oblige You at this hour to stand firmly to the Aid of Him who thinks he deserves the assistance of every honest Man. Therefore let Thurloe have notice that the Great Seal is ready to be placed in his hands and the Sollicitor that exertion will be used to accomplish whatever is his wish; this done, but not till then, I am open to the plan of Ministry proposed by You on Sunday; for I will never retract any propositions I have assented to, and the Appearance of Parliament Yesterday may render those You had sounded more pliable than before they knew what effect the perfidious conduct of France might have on the minds of Men; but my dear Lord I cannot help urging that I will never agree to the acceptance of the Services of any part of the Opposition but to add strength

to Your Administration; it is a desire of going the utmost lengths my feelings will permit, that to give You ease I consent to what gives me infinite pain; but any further, even that consideration cannot make me go, and rather than be shackled by those desperate Men (if the Nation will not stand by Me, which I can never suppose) I will rather see any form of Government introduced into this Island and lose my Crown than wear it as a disgrace.

I have appointed the House of Lords at two this day; therefore shall be ready to receive the Commons at three; You will take care that a proper answer be prepared to the latter; Lord Weymouth has already had my directions for the one to the Lords.

QUEEN'S HOUSE,
March 18th 1778.
$\frac{m}{35}$ *pt.* 8 A.M.

Draft, endorsed by the King, and fair copy in his handwriting.

No. 2233—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

Lord Sandwich has the honour to send to your Majesty the letter recieved yesterday from Admiral Keppell, together with a draught of an answer which if it meets with your Majesty's approbation may be sent to him by this nights post.

The answer is drawn up by my Lord Chancellor, and approved entirely by Lord North and Ld. Gower who are the only ones of your Majesty's confidential servants who Lord Sandwich had a possibility of seeing this morning.

Lord Sandwich is unhappy that it is impossible for him to attend on your Majesty this day as he is confined at the House of Lords, therefore takes this method to ask whither it may not be adviseable that Sir Charles Hardy should kiss your Majesty's hand at the Levee to-morrow on being appointed to the command of the fleet.

ADMIRALTY,
March 18th 1778.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2234—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 157.

Lord North—I am highly incensed at the language held by Lord S—— last night to Eden, and approve of that of the latter. I will not say more at this hour for I am fairly woren down, except that I shall not let appearances be put on as plausible as possible consent personally to negociate with any individual, their proposals and my answers must go through your channel for I will not change this Administration, but if I can with honour let you make acquisitions.

Queen's House,
March 18th 1778.
$\frac{m}{15}$ *pt.* 6 P.M.

No. 2235—*Lord North to the King.*

[19 *March*, 1778.]

Lord North has the honour of transmitting to his Majesty an account of another conversation between Ld. S—— and Mr. Eden by it appears that there is still some probability of having the assistance of Lord Chatham and his friends, but Ld. Chm. must be the head of any administration in which he acts, and it would be vain and useless to expect him on any other footing. His speech and Ld. Shelburne's furnish a very fair and handsome opportunity of applying to them, and unless they come, the country will be undone. Every moment that the Treaty is delayed will enable them to rise higher in their demands, because every moment must encrease the difficulties of the present system.

Thursday.

Endorsed by the King, March 19th, 1778.

No. 2236—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 157.

Lord North—The poorness of the Attack, the fulness of the Support, and the conclusion on the Expedition from Canada in the Committee on the State of the Nation gives me much pleasure.

Queen's House,
March 20th 1778.
$\frac{m}{6}$ *pt.* 8 A.M.

No. 2237—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 158.

Lord North may depend on my never departing from the powers I gave him in my letter of Sunday last, that he might attempt to acquire auxilliaries to the present administration; but he will remember that in any treaty the basis of the whole is that Lord North is to remain first Lord of the Treasury and Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Thurloe Chancellor, Lords Suffolk, Sandwich, Gower and Weymouth in the Cabinet Offices they may like best and that Mr. Wedderburne be placed to his mind; as to the enclosed paper drawn up by Mr. Eden, you are the best judge whether it leaves any ground for your treating on the only foot I will ever agree to; but my Dear Lord understand me clearly I will hear of none but on the ground I have now again repeated, and which Lord Suffolk reported to me on Sunday, when you had shewn him the full and affectionate letter I had wrote unto you that you had told it was all you could expect from me.

Queen's House,
March 20th 1778
$\frac{m}{6}$ *pt.* 8 A.M.

Draft, endorsed by the King, and fair copy in his handwriting.

No. 2238—*Lord Barrington to the King.*

War Office,
20*th March* 1778.
near 5 P.M.

I have the honour to send your Majesty copies of the States of Sir Wm. Howes' Army which have come to General Harvey, with Cap. Bailey's remarks on two or three matters mention'd in those States.

General Harvey is made quite easy, indeed happy by your Majesty's gracious message convey'd thro me. Barrington.

No. 2239—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of informing his Majesty, that he has just heard in great confidence that the opposition not being able to agree amongst themselves on any other plan have just come to a resolution of submitting themselves absolutely to Lord Chatham, and that Lord Granby is to set out to-morrow morning to make in all their names an offer of their services and attachment.

Lord North thinks it his duty to represent to his Majesty that to perform the duties of the Treasury, to attend the House of Commons at the rate of three long days a week, to see the numbers of people who have daily business with the first Lord of Treasury, and to give all thought to the principal measures of government in this very alarming crisis is enough to employ the greatest man of business, and the most consummate statesman that ever existed, and is infinitely more than Lord North can undertake so that if this load of important duties is any longer entrusted to him, National disgrace and ruin will be the consequence. Whoever may come to the assistance of government, must be the director and dictator of the leading measures of government. Lord North knows too well his want of ability and decision in matters of nice importance to pretend to be equal to such a trust. If no assistance can be gain'd His Majesty, if he means to be well served, must so contrive it as to place some

other person amongst the present friends of government in a more eminent point of view than Lord North, and let him be consider'd by the Nation as the person to whom they are to look for their safety, defence, and reputation at this juncture.

Under the firm persuasion of the truth of this observation, Lord North has advised his Majesty to send for Lord Chatham, Lord Shelburne and his friends. He is perfectly convinced that His Majesty will find himself obliged to have recourse to this expedient in a short time when Ld. C. and his friends will be more unreasonable than they are now, and if he accepts the offer which Lord Granby is to make to him, He will be obliged to provide for a much greater number of associates than he is at present. Lord North can not, however, say that he will be satisfied without recommending to all the offices in the Cabinet. He will expect to be, and to appear the confidential Minister; with respect to the former, even if all the present ministers remain in the Cabinet, He would in fact be the real author and proposer of all public measures as to appearances. If he is in effect the Minister, it would probably be for his Majesty's interest that he should appear so, which he thinks he shall not, while the Cabinet is fill'd with persons who upon so many important occasions have differ'd so materially from him. Lord North begs his Majesty's pardon for troubling him so often upon a subject which is so disagreable to him, but having learnt from the D. of Northd. and Mr. T. Pitt that Lord Chatham thinks it essentially necessary for him to maintain his credit with the American Colonies in order to be of material service to the Public at this juncture, and that leaving me, and other of his Majesty's servants in the offices we now hold would be enough to prevent his retaining any part of that confidence, He thought it right to mention the matter once more, especially, as the approaching coalition between him and the other party of the opposition will render it more difficult to acquire his assistance than it now is, as in that case he will be obliged to insist upon many more changes than would satisfy him at this time.

If Lord North could possibly conceive his abilities equal to his situation in this arduous moment, or if he thought it would be in his power to continue for any time to serve his Majesty in it, He would have been silent after receiving the first command from his Majesty, but the imminent danger of this country, and

the great interests that are concern'd make him hope for his Majesty's pardon for troubling him so often.

Saty. Mar. 21 [1778].

No. 2240—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 159.

QUEEN'S HOUSE,
March 22nd 1778.
m pt. 8 A.M.

LORD NORTH—I can scarcely express my disappointment at finding, that all the uneasiness and labour I have undergone for the whole week, has not convinced you, that though you are unhappily too diffident of your own abilities, yet that you ought also to consider, that you have changed your ground since Sunday; I never will depart from the letter, I so often remind you of, which I wrote on that day unto you; I again repeat it strengthen this Administration, by an accession from any quarter; but I will never consent to removing the Members of the present Cabinet from my service.

I am extremely indifferent whether Lord Granby goes or does not go with the abject message of the Rockingham party this day to Hayes; I will certainly send none to that place.

My Dear Lord your now always recurring to a total change of the Administration, obliges me to ask you one clear question, which in my own mind I am almost certain cannot be your intention, if I will not by your advice take the step I look on as disgraceful to myself, and destruction to my country and family, are you resolved agreable to the example of the D. of Grafton at the hour of danger to desert me.

Draft, endorsed by the King, and fair copy in his handwriting.

No. 2241—*Lord North to the King.*

[23 *March.* 1778.]

Lord North was so much out of order yesterday from the constant vexation of his mind, added to a cold he caught in the

House of Commons that he found it necessary to go and pass one night in the country, by which means he miss'd receiving his Majesty's letter till this moment.

Lord North never thought himself in any degree equal to his situation, thus, accordingly, in much quieter times, repeatedly requested his Majesty's permission to withdraw; His Majesty, by his constant refusal of that permission, has continued Lord North in Office till the times are become more arduous and difficult, and Lord North consequently more unequal to his situation. Lord North cannot conceive what can induce his Majesty, after so many proofs of Lord North's unfitness for his situation to determine at all events to keep him at the head of the Administration, though the almost certain consequence of his Majesty's resolution will be the ruin of his affairs, and though it can not ward off for a month that arrangement which his Majesty seems to apprehend.

Lord North has no intention at this moment to quit his place, but as to performing the duties of it, he has neither time nor capacity to enable him to go through them. He, therefore, most earnestly supplicates the King to chuse a Leader for the Administration out of some other quarter if not out of the opposition, as his affairs must suffer, if so much dependance is had upon Lord North. Besides, events may not improbably happen, which may render it absolutely necessary to remove Lord North, it is therefore highly expedient that his Majesty should in his own heart be prepared at all times with a new arrangement. Lord North will, by continuing as long as he can, give all possible time to his Majesty to form the most agreable plan to himself, but he remains in his former opinion that, unless some very unexpected piece of good fortune happens to Great Britain, that work will be the more difficult, the longer it is delay'd.

Lord North has the honour of inclosing for his Majesty's signature two messages one to the House of Lords, and the other to the House of Commons.

Monday 1 *o'clock.*

Endorsed by the King, March 23rd, 1778.

No. 2242—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 160.

Lord North—I cannot return the message to the House of Commons, without expressing my satisfaction at your determination not to desert at this hour, what indeed I always thought your sense of Honour must prevent; I shall write more fully in the Evening.

St. James's,
March 23*rd* 1778
$\frac{m}{46}$ *pt. one* P.M.

No. 2243—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 148.

Queen's House,
March 23*rd* 1778.
$\frac{m}{46}$ *pt.* P.M.

The paper delivered this day by the French Ambassador is certainly equivalent to a declaration and therefore must certainly overturn every plan proposed for strengthening the Army under the Command of Lieut. Gen. Clinton with an intent of carrying on an active War in North America what occurs now is to fix what numbers are necessary to defend New York, Rhode Island, Nova Scotia and the Floridas, it is a joke to think of keeping Pensilvania for we must form from the Army now in America a corps sufficient to attack the French Islands and two or three thousand men ought to be employed with the Fleet to destroy the Ports and Warfs [*sic*] of the Rebels.

The Manchester Regiment and 800 Drafts from the American recruiting Company to be sent to strengthen Gibraltar.

I shall write every thought as it occurs in this slight manner to Lord North that no time may be lost in taking the various matters into speedy consideration which this event behoves us not to neglect.

No. 2244—*Duke of Argyle to the King.*

Sir—Not being able in person to lay myself at your Majesties feet, I beg leave to address your Majesty in this humble and dutifull manner.

The State of my health not allowing me at present to attend to your Majesties Service in Scotland as my duty requires. And the Promotion which has lately been most graciously conferred upon me rendering it improper, as I apprehend, for me to serve there in the Rank of Lieutenant General; Permit me with the utmost Duty and affection to submit my situation to your Majesties consideration, and with your Majesties gracious approbation to resign into your hands the Command which I now hold in Scotland.

I most humbly intreat that your Majesty will believe I shall ever continue to be with the utmost respect and most zealous attachment. Your Majesties most devoted & most dutifull Subject & Servant. Argyle.

March 23, 1778

No. 2245—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 160.

Lord North—On Sunday Morning I sent my letter at five minutes after Eight, consequently was unfortunate in your having left town so early that morning; but though your letters for the last two days might perhaps have boren to one less acquainted with you than I am, unpleasant interpretations, yet I was too fully acquainted with your Duty and Affection for my Person, and of your Honour and Integrity, but to be convinced that could not be intended to state any thing, but your unhappy diffidence of yourself.

I desire you will call here at two this day, that every necessary step for bringing to the Cabinet an accession of men of abilities may not an hour longer be delayed. If the fatigue of the House of Commons or other business shall render that hour inconvenient,

I then wish to see you at Eight this evening ; for I am resolved to shew the World that neither Zeal, Activity, nor Resolution are wanting in me, when the times require it, to forward with the greatest expedition every measure that can be necessary for the Security or honour of my Dominions.

QUEEN'S HOUSE,

March 24th 1778 $\frac{m}{55}$ *pt.* 7 A.M.

Draft, endorsed by the King, and fair copy in his handwriting.

No. 2246—*Lord North to the King.*

[25 *March*, 1778.]

Lord North has the honour of transmitting to his Majesty three papers, the two first of which contain very rough sketches of mutual proposals between Great Britain and America, and the third is an idea of a letter which may be written by the American Agents at Paris ; except what relates to the Quebec Bill which certainly ought not to be made a part of any treaty or preliminary, and about which the utmost that can be said is that it may be reconsider'd and amended, if found defective. Except what relates to that Bill Lord North is of opinion that a speedy accomodation upon these principles would be very desirable in our circumstances, But he much questions the sincerity of Dr. Franklyn.

From what fell from his Majesty Lord North imagines that he sees the present state of this country in a better light than it deserves. From the situation of public and private credit, Lord North doubts very much whether this country can borrow for two years more, and he submits to his Majesty that the power of borrowing has been hitherto the principal source of the greatness and weight of Great Britain.

Lord North thinks it right to touch shortly upon two points which his Majesty recommended this day to his consideration.

Sr. Joseph Yorke is a very able man of business & would be of great use in the Cabinet, but his course of life not having led him to Parliamentary studies, He will probably not take an active

part in the House of Commons. The Attorney & Solr. Genl. have great claims upon Government, & ought to be secur'd in high departments, but, unless their departure from the House of Commons is accompanied by a great accession of strength out of the opposition, Lord North can not undertake to conduct his Majesty's business in that Hs. of Parliament. Their promotion was a part of the arrangement sent to his Majesty on Sunday seven night; By his Majesty's express order, & not according to his own opinion, he sent to them, before any other part of the plan was settled; The consequence may be that Lord North will not be able any longer to go through the business of the Hs. of Commons.

Endorsed by the King, No. 1, March 25th, 1778.

No. 2247—*Lord North to the King.*

[25 *March*, 1778.]

Lord North has the honour of sending his Majesty a printed paper written by Mr. Mauduit one of the most zealous friends of Great Britain in her disputes with America. He begs leave to add that that opinion coincides with the sentiments of Mr. Stanley, Mr. Jenkinson, and several other friends of government, and is growing daily more general. Indeed, the condition of this country as to its faculties is deplorable; It is totally unequal to a war with Spain, France, and America, and will, Lord North fears, be over match'd if the contention is only with the House of Bourbon, and, therefore, although the offence received from France is great He owns that he should be glad if an accomodation with America would prevent for the present moment, a war with France, as he thinks that Great Britain will suffer more in the war, than her enemies, He does not mean, by defeats, but by an enormous expense, which will ruin her, and will not in any degree be repaid by the most brilliant victories. Great Britain will undo herself while she thinks of punishing France.

Lord North begs leave to trouble his Majesty for a moment on a disagreable subject but in which he is bound to speak truth, the bad situation of affairs will with great appearance of reason be attributed to the obstinate perseverance in the American War.

There is therefore no probability that the present Ministers can continue many weeks longer. Ld. Chatham will at present be contented with the principal offices in the Cabinet, without whom it is not to be supposed that he can serve his Majesty with effect, or honour. In a short time, the change which must take place, will be universal. Ld. North's diffidence of himself is grounded upon seven year's experience, and will for ever render it fatal to his Majesty to continue him at the head of affairs. In short, peace with America, and a change in the Ministry are the only steps which can save this country. His Majesty's own sentiments will make him prefer the salvation of this country to every personal consideration, impress'd, as he is, with that affectionate regard to his people which becomes a good Prince. Lord North having said this much, is silent, but this much he could not, with peace of mind, refrain from saying.

Wednesday.

Endorsed by the King, No. 2, March 25th, 1778.

No. 2248—*Vt. Weymouth to the King.*

[25 *March*, 1778.]

Tho' Lord North's letters are very desponding, it is impossible that he can depart from what he promised your Majesty last night.

The proposed Treaty with America, is of too much importance and consists of too many matters to give, on the sudden, a decisive opinion, Lord North seems to have doubts on some of the articles. If peace cou'd be made with America reserving a dependence, it wou'd certainly be a very desireable object at this moment.

The warrants for the Lord Lieutenants to call out the Militia can not be ready till to-morrow morning.

$\frac{m}{35}$ *past four* P.M.

Endorsed by the King, March 25th, 1778.

No. 2249—*Vt. Weymouth to the King.*

[25 *March*, 1778.]

As the House of Commons was likely to sitt late to-day on the extraordinaries of the Army, the Meeting of your Majesty's servants is appointed to be at my office tomorrow at twelve o'clock, as soon as it shall be over, I will not fail to attend your Majesty with the result of the deliberation.

$\frac{m}{25}$ *past eight* P.M.

Endorsed by the King, March 25th, 1778.

No. 2250—*Lord North to the King.*

[25 *March*, 1778.]

Lord North has the honour of informing his Majesty, that the conversation in the House of Commons upon the Extraordinaries of the Army has lasted till eleven o'clock, but there was no division.

Lord North is desired to submit to his Majesty that it would be convenient if he would send a Commission on Friday next to the House of Lords to pass several private and some public bills. There are none amongst them of a kind to require his Majesty's presence.

Lord North hopes that his Majesty received the three papers which he had the honour of sending this morning; He very much doubts whether Franklyn is so much in earnest as could be wish'd and therefore does not flatter himself that this business will have so speedy and happy an end as Mr. P. seems to imagine; But if the plan chalk'd out in the papers could fairly take place, the conclusion would be as advantageous as one can expect in our circumstances; he believes that matters must become rather more difficult since Franklyns introduction at Versailles, but certain it is that if this agreement ought to be made at all, it should be immediately undertaken.

When his Majesty has consider'd the papers, Lord North will

be glad to receive them again and send them to Mr. Pulteney, who is waiting for the return of them in order to set out for France if it is thought right that he should.

Ly. Day Wednesday Eveng. 11 *o'clock.*

No. 2251—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 161.

Lord North—The Papers which I received from you yesterday morning, and now return, are certainly of too much importance to the Interest and Honour of this country, for me at so short notice, to venture to give a decisive opinion; indeed I might entirely have declined giving any, without more mature deliberation, and hearing at large the sentiments of the Cabinet.

The many instances of the inimical conduct of Franklin towards this country, makes me aware that hatred to this Country is the constant object of his mind, and therefore I trust that fearing the Rebellious Colonies may accept the generous offers, I am enabled by Parliament to make them by the Commissioners, now to be sent to America; that his chief aim in what he has thrown out is to prevent their going, or to draw out of Administration an inclination to go further lengths than the Act of Parliament will authorise, that information from him may prevent America from concluding with the Commissioners.

Yet I think it so desirable to end the War with that Country, to be enabled with redoubled ardour to avenge the faithless and insolent conduct of France that I think it may be proper to keep open the channel of intercourse with that insidious man.

As to my entering at present into the specific terms that may or may not be admitted, that is impossible untill the whole is drawn up in some degree of method after another interview of the Agents employed in this dangerous business; but I will never consent that in any Treaty that may be concluded a single word be mentioned concerning Canada, Nova Scotia, or the Floridas, which are Colonies belonging to this Country, and the more they are kept unlike the other Colonies the better, for it is by them

we are to keep a certain awe over the abandoned Colonies, where good Garrisons must be constantly kept.

QUEEN'S HOUSE,
March 26th 1778.
$\frac{m}{5}$ *pt.* 8 A.M.

Draft, endorsed by the King, and fair copy in his handwriting.

No. 2252—*The King to Lord North.*

[? 26 *March*, 1778.]

LORD NORTH—By Mistake two of the papers I did not put up in the packet, I therefore now enclose them.

No. 2253—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of informing his Majesty that the House have agreed to the report of the Committee upon the Extraordinaries of the Army. There have been two divisions in the course of the day, the first upon a motion for printing the House Tax Bill

Ayes	44
Noes	71

The second upon an amendment proposed by Mr. Burke the vote of the Extraordinaries

Ayes	21
Noes	56

Mr. Pulteney is going again to Paris having received a warning not to agree to anything about Canada Nova Scotia or the Floridas. If Franklyn is not sincere (and Lord North has no opinion of his sincerity) he will not write such a letter as that of which Lord North has the honour of sending a Draught to his Majesty.

Thursday Mar. 26 [1778] $\frac{3}{4}$ *pt* 6 P.M.

Endorsed by the King.

Enclosure. Speakers 26th March 1778

The House had a short conversation on a Motion for Printing the Tax Bills

For it	Agt. it
Sir George Yonge	Lord North
Mr. Tho. Townsend	Sir Grey Cooper
	Sir Wm. Bagot
	Mr. Rigby

The House divided Ayes 44
Noes 71

On the Extraordinaries

For agreeing with the Committee	Agt. the resolution
Mr. Rigby	Mr. Barre
Lord Barrington	Sir George Yonge
Lord North	Mr. Baker
Sir Grey Cooper	Mr. Burke moved an addition to the resolution to except the Expenses incurred by Genl. Carleton in the Indian Department.
	Sir Philip Jennings Clarke
	Mr. John Johnstone
Ayes 21	
Noes 56	
Resolutions agreed to	Questions put on Mr. Burke's amendment.

No. 2254—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 162.

Lord North—I have read Lord Rockingham's two letters and I am thoroughly convinced that you cannot be ignorant that he is now quite Irish in his Opinions, therefore hope you will be

on your guard not in answer to give that degree of encouragement that may draw this Country into granting too many advantages in Trade to Ireland, if that Kingdom is to have any grace of that kind I desire they may be granted with a sparing hand, for experience has taught me that every favour granted there is only a reason to ask a greater.

I am glad to find by your letter accompanying the list of Speakers on the Extraordinaries, that you see the propositions from Franklin in the same light I do; it is the keeping Canada on its present foot, that is alone to secure the Dependence of America, with the assistance of troops in the Floridas and Nova Scotia.

QUEEN'S HOUSE,
March 27th 1778.
$\frac{m}{38}$ *pt.* 7 A.M.

No. 2255—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North forgot to leave the inclosed papers with his Majesty, when he was at St. James's, and to mention to him a fact which he thinks he ought not to conceal, although it relates to a subject about which his Majesty has been much troubled already.

Lord Chatham comes down to the House of Lords on Tuesday, and will in all probability, then make some declaration which will unite him with Lord Rockingham's friends, from whom he is, at the present moment, totally separated; Lord North continuing in opinion that the first public mischance will oblige his Majesty to have recourse to the Opposition, thought it right to mention this circumstance as Lord Chatham may now come into Office with a few followers, but if he is driven to make common cause with the rest of the opposition, a general sweep will be made and hardly any of his Majesty's servants permitted to remain in office. Almost all the friends of Government press Lord North to endeavour to bring in Lord Chatham, and none more than Mr. Rigby, who would certainly lose his office, but who is very earnest for a speedy change upon the conviction that it is a hundred to one that the present Ministry will not be able

to maintain itself long, Lord North has the fact above mentioned from Mr. Rigby.

Understanding that his Majesty's chief objection to inviting Lord Chatham is the fear of his assuming too much authority, Lord North thought it his duty to appriz his Majesty that what he apprehends from Lord Chatham, will if an arrangement is delay'd, fall much more heavily in case of the very probable event of a necessary change of Government in a month or two hence.

The Nation does not think ill of the integrity of the present ministers, but as the present dangerous state of the country may with great appearance of reason be attributed to their perseverance in the American War, the Nation begins tis to be feared, to think but indifferently of their judgement.

Mar. 29 [1778].

No. 2256—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 163.

QUEEN'S HOUSE,
March 29th 1778
$\frac{m}{44}$ *pt.* 11 P.M.

LORD NORTH—I have read the proposed Bill for a provision for my six younger sons, and five daughters, whenever it shall please the Almighty to end my life and for the two children of the Duke of Gloucester, whenever he shall die. I have no objection to any part of it, have therefore only corrected the name of my Second Daughter, and filled the blank left for that of my youngest daughter.

I cannot at the same time help expressing my concern, at your recurring in a letter this evening to a measure I have repeatedly told you I never will submit to, as I look upon it as disgraceful to me and destruction to my kingdom, and Family; but your never quitting this subject and your avowed despondency, which is highly detrimental to my service obliges me to ask the three following questions, to which I expect explicit answers in writing.

1. Do you think it possible to strengthen the present Administration by an accession of some men of tallents from opposition ?

2. If that cannot be effected, will you consent to continue, and try to exert yourself and cooperate with me in putting vigour and activity into every Department.

3. If you decline continuing, you cannot I suppose refuse presiding at the Treasury and finishing the business of this session of Parliament, and not be surprised at my employing that short space of time in taking such steps as I may judge necessary for putting vigour into my Service, the first of which will be my instantly putting the Great Seal into the hands of the Attorney General.

Draft, endorsed by the King, and fair copy in his handwriting.

No. 2257—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North would not have recur'd to a subject disagreable to his Majesty if he had not thought himself obliged in duty to convey to his Majesty the information he had received. Such a report, if true, is certainly of a nature that ought to be communicated to his Majesty.

As to the questions which his Majesty has done Lord North the honour to put to him. His answer to the first is that he believes it may be possible to obtain an acquisition from opposition, but He is afraid that it can not be done on the terms proposed by his Majesty ; Lord Chatham will expect to place his friends in the most responsible offices and to have a majority in the Cabinet. Lord Rockingham having many more followers will expect more.

To the second question he has the honour to answer. That he knows by experience how incapable he is to preside at the head of the government of this country at any time, much more at this difficult moment, and that he most earnestly supplicates [His Majesty] not to think of continuing him in such a situation to the almost certain ruin of his affairs, & of this country. Some other person must be thought of, to controul and direct and put

vigour into the Departments of Government, or the nation is undone.

In answer to the third question, Lord North will certainly obey his Majesty's commands by continuing in his present office to the end of the Session of Parliament. That whenever his Majesty will be so good as to release him, He will endeavour by every means in his power to promote his Majesty's affairs in or out of office, in the Hs. of Lords or Hs. of Commons, in short in any manner that he is able: In his present situation he would be glad to [do] it, but really the weight of it is too heavy for him to bear. He has often in times of less pressure intreated his dismission from the same sentiment of his own insufficiency: If his Majesty had granted his request, his affairs might, perhaps, not be in so critical a situation. What he can do, he will at all times to shew his duty and gratitude to so good a master, but to undertake, upon the present system, to carry this country through this plunge, would be to undertake what he is morally certain he has not talents to perform. As a subject at large he will contribute what he can to the public service, and he will chearfully obey his Majesty's commands by remaining in his present office to the end of the Session.

Downing Street,
Mar. 30 [1778].

No. 2258—*Vt. Weymouth to the King.*

Nothing but your Majesty's commands cou'd induce me to venture to give an opinion on so arduous a matter as the present. As I have always thought that Lord North's now quitting his situation, wou'd much weaken your Majesty's Government, without an accession from another quarter, his present promise of remaining will give your Majesty time before the end of the session of Parliament to take such measures as you shall think proper. I imagine that the reason for Lord North's not mentioning the Great Seal, is, your Majesty's having told him that you wou'd immediately put it into the hands of the Attorney General, to put vigour into your service, But as he has now consented to remain he will probably expect that that business shou'd go thro' his hands, nothing therefore can put it on a better

footing than the answer which your Majesty intends writing to Lord North. May I be excused, if I intreat your Majesty to permitt me not to give any opinion about the arrangement for the Solicitor General, I am sure it is unnecessary for me to give any reasons for this very humble request.

ARLINGTON STREET,
March 30th 1778
$\frac{m}{45}$ *past six.* P.M.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2259—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 164.

LORD NORTH—By the letter I have received from you this afternoon, I am sorry to perceive [you] to have by declining the two first Questions adopted the third, the consenting to hold your employment and to conduct the public affairs in the House of Commons untill the conclusion of this session of Parliament; it would be useless in me to say what I feel at your declining to stay beyond that period, as I have exhausted that subject in the numberless letters I have wrote unto you; I must therefore from henceforth alone attend to what I think the good of my service requires, and as such now direct you to send for Mr. Thurloe and acquaint him that I intend in a few days to place the Great Seal in his hands, and to conferr a Peerage on him; as I am even to the end of your holding your Employment willing to give you every ease not detrimental to my service, I will authorise you to persuade the Solicitor General not to quit the house of Commons untill the end of the Session, tell him it will be a conduct I shall never forget, and one of your last Acts shall be the compleating the arrangement with the Chief Justice that the Solicitor may preside in the Court of Common Pleas.

QUEEN'S HOUSE,
March 30th 1778
$\frac{m}{34}$ *pt.* 7 P.M.

Draft, endorsed by the King, and fair copy in his handwriting.

No. 2260—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of informing his Majesty, that Mr. Barré's motion for a Committee to examine the three last accounts of extraordinaries was permitted to pass without a division. The Committee is to be chosen by Ballot.

Lord North has received the honour of his Majesty's letter, & returns him most sincere thanks for his goodness to him. He begs leave to assure his Majesty, that although he is afraid that he cannot conduct the Public affairs with comfort to himself or advantage to his Majesty. He will, if his Majesty should realy find it necessary to detain him longer than the end of the Session continue let his situation be never so weary till his Majesty is able to arrange his servants in the manner the most agreable to himself, and the most advantageous to the Public. He will obey his commands with respect to the Atty. and Solr. General, He believes that it may be convenient, (whatever relief his Majesty is kind enough to intend for him) to keep it secret for some time.

Downing Street *Mar.* 30 [1778].

$\frac{m}{55}$ *pt.* 8 P.M.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2261—*Lord Hertford to the King.*

Sire—After desiring your Majesty to give yourself no further trouble with or about the letter I put into your hands of Mr. Walpole's than to throw it into the fire, I am ashamed to mention the subject again to your Majesty, but I find myself so anxiously pressed by Mr. Walpole to return it that he may preserve a copy of that as well as of every other paper he has ever wrote upon the subject of his Nephew, that I presume upon your Majesty's indulgence to ask it if it is not destroied which it most probably is. Mr. Walpole grounds his anxiety upon a persuasion that he shall sooner or later be called upon to make every part of his conduct in regard to his Nephew publick, thinking that he has been privately & obscurely injured in his reputation for his

behaviour with respect to his Nephew though he has acted therein solely upon a principle of duty to his Nephew & the Walpole family, and adding at his time of life he cares for nothing so much as leaving a fair character behind him which he has thought of preserving in this instance by showing when it is necessary every word he has ever wrote upon the subject.

His treating it so seriously will I hope excuse me for taking this liberty and of dwelling so long upon such a trifle, and if I do not receive the letter from your Majesty I will make my excuses to him, in the best manner I can, by not having been able to foresee that I should be called upon for a copy of it. Inclosed I have the honour of sending your Majesty an answer I have just received of Lord Orford's continuing well.

I remain Sire with the greatest duty & respect your Majesty's most faithful & devoted humble serv. HERTFORD.

GROSVR. STREET,
March 30*th* 1778.

Enclosure.

Lord Orford to Lord Hertford.

MY VERY GOOD LORD—After struggling against the repeated attacks of a very violent disorder I have now the pleasure to inform you that I have the pleasing prospect of a speedy recovery —I find my Health encreasing daily—and as I ride two or three Hours every day have little doubt of recovering my Strength in a short time—As you have frequent access to his Majesty may I trouble you to mention these circumstances with my most profound and dutiful respects. Nothing will give me more satisfaction than to be able once more to present myself before his Royl. person. I am with compliments to Lady Hertford. Your Lordships most obed. & devt. servt. ORFORD.

HIGHBEACH,
31*st of March* 1778.

I am sorry to find that the well concerted plan for the reduction of America Hath been defeated by the Inability & Pusillanimity of one man.

No. 2262—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 165.

Lord North—Though I mentioned your continuing untill the end of this Session, I never doubted that if it should be really necessary to detain you longer to arrange matters in the best manner after so unfortunate an event, that you would submit to it, and I am pleased at finding I judged right on that head; indeed that latitude is indispensably necessary, for till I received your letter the last afternoon, I never despaired of persuading you to continue in your present employment, though I felt how painful it was unto you, and therefore have never arranged any ideas in my mind, in case that disagreable event should arise. As soon as you have acquainted me with the answer of the Attorney General, if you do not chuse to take the part of acquainting the Lord Chancellor of the necessity particularly at this time of the person who holds that Office attending Council, and therefore of my calling on him to resign the Great Seal I will very readily send for him and tell it him myself, I did so in the case of Lord Camden, and perhaps he will like that better; I perfectly agree that any idea of your retiring must be kept quite secret; and I shall from this hour redouble my activity to shew the public that no event however unpleasant personally to me can abate my ardour to be of use to my country.

Queen's House,
March 31*st* 1778
$\frac{m}{46}$ *pt.* 7 A.M.

Draft, endorsed by the King, and fair copy in his handwriting.

No. 2263—*Lord Weymouth to the King.*

In conversation with Admiral Keppell, he approves very much of a Fleet in the Mediterranean, & preventing the junction of the Brest & Toulon Squadrons, provided a sufficient force can be left at home, but I cou'd not bring him to be explicit as to the actual

force now ready being equal to those purposes & others which it will be necessary to employ part of them in. He much laments the want of Frigates, seems very ready to do his duty at Sea, but not so much to give advice.

Arlington Street,
March 31*st* 1778.
$\frac{m}{40}$ *past two* P.M.

No. 2264—*Lord Weymouth to the King.*

[? *March*, 1778.]

Your Majesty receives a report from Mr. Justice Willes on the case of the Person recommended by Lord Hertford, your Majesty is troubled with it in this manner, because, as the report seems favourable, if your Majesty shou'd order a respite to be sent, there may be time to receive an answer to it.

May I take this opportunity of asking your Majesty's permission to go to Ealing tomorrow for a few days, which I forgot to do when I had the honour of attending your Majesty today.

No. 2265—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of informing his Majesty that Mr. Jackson will undertake the Commission provided he has leave to return in case the first attempt with the Congress should not succeed. Mr. Eden considers this as a refusal, and that the permission can not be granted; He thinks that, considering Mr. Jackson's despair of success, He ought not to be one of the Commission. Lord North thought it right to submit these circumstances to his Majesty before the house when he will talk more fully upon them. Govr. Johnstone will go in Mr. Jackson's place and his friends will, in that case, be better inclined to side with administration.

Downing Street,
April 1*st*, 1778.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2266—*Lord North to the King.*

[1 *April*, 1778.]

Lord North has the honour of inclosing a letter from Mr. Forth containing many curious particulars one of which viz: the return of Mr. de la Motte Piquet may be depended upon. Some of the others are not improbable, and he is sorry to say that he does not [think] the article relating to Portugal absolutely impossible.

Lord North hopes that his Majesty does not impute the letters he has lately written to his Majesty to any motive inconsistent with the zealous attachment he owes, and feels for his Majesty's service. Knowing his own unfitness for the high office he holds, and his inability to carry this country through the difficulties in which it is engaged, He thought it highly dangerous to his Majesty and the Public that his Majesty should continue in this critical moment to repose a degree of confidence in him which he is conscious his abilities will not justify; He feels much comforted and rejoiced that his Majesty begins to think seriously of making some new arrangement from whence a fairer prospect for the prosperity of this country may be derived, and is very grateful to his Majesty for his kind attention to his ease and comfort. He begs leave at the same time to assure his Majesty that, till a plan can be settled which his Majesty can approve, He will sacrifice every personal consideration to his Majesty's service, in which he will die, rather than abandon his Majesty in distress.

Lord North has seen Mr. Le Grand, and communicated to him his Majesty's orders respecting the Bill for providing for his Majesty's and the Duke of Gloucester's children. He has since received the Duke's commands to attend his Royal Highness on Thursday; He found, by Mr. Le Grand, that his Royal Highness would be well pleased to have the £12,000 promised to his Royal Highness's children granted in the manner the most agreable to his Majesty.

Lord North incloses a note from Mr. Wedderburn which refers to a matter mentioned in Lord North's other note.

Endorsed by the King, April 1st, 1778.

No. 2267—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 166.

My Dear Lord—The letter I have just received from You is in the affectionate style I used to find ever to be called forth in You when my Service was concerned, and so very unlike the coldness and despondency of Your correspondence for some time that I cannot refrain the pleasure of expressing my satisfaction at it, though I shall see you this day ; when I will fully talk over the conduct of Mr. Jackson ; I am very clear he ought not to be allowed to go, and that Johnston, if made palatable to Lord Carlisle which I should think Eden might easily manage would not be an improper person.

Queens House,
April 1st 1778
$\frac{m}{49}$ *pt.* 11. A.M.

Draft, endorsed by the King, and fair copy in his handwriting.

No. 2268—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 167.

Lord North—I have received the list of the Secret Committee chosen yesterday by Ballot.

I must insist on no time being lost in Speaking to the Attorney General concerning his taking the Great Seal, as my intention is to conferr it on him next Saturday, that he may be able to appear in the Debate on the close of the State of the Nation on Tuesday next. You Yesterday renewed Your request that I would think of an arrangement to release You from Your present Situation ; it is impossible for me to stirr a step untill the Great Seal is in respectable hands ; the Situation of the Solicitor General is quite different, an arrangement of a permanent kind is to be made to satisfy him ; the Attorney is to be brought forward to give energy to the first station in the Law, therefore I only press for what

is of use to my Service, and leave the other to Your arranging when it suits You best.

QUEENS HOUSE
April 2nd 1778
$\frac{m}{57}$ *pt.* 8 A.M.

Draft, endorsed by the King, and fair copy in his handwriting.

No. 2269—*Lord North to the King.*

[2 *April*, 1778.]

Lord North has the honour of informing his Majesty that Mr. Wilkes's motion for a Bill against Subscriptions etc. was rejected by a great Majority.

Ayes 40
Noes 71.

The House afterwards sat till half an hour after twelve in the Committee upon the House Tax Bill, in which there were many divisions, and the Bill was only gone half through.

A motion from Mr. Grenville for Lord Stormont's correspondence was rejected in the course of the day.

Ayes 45
Noes 66

No. 2270—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 168.

LORD NORTH—The demand of pay made by Mr. Eden seems rather Exorbitant, he seems to think *Eclat* a part of the character of a Commissioner, I think *business* their sole occupation ; but I shall certainly consent on that head to whatever You may think reasonable, always trusting that the expence is not in the end to fall on my Civil List, for it is as much a part of the American Contest as the Victualling Ships or any other of the Expences this unfortunate affair has made necessary.

Forth's letter has an appearance of truth, we shall soon hear from Lord Grantham if it is exact.

QUEENS' HOUSE,
April 3rd 1778
$\frac{m}{30}$ *pt.* 8 A.M.

No. 2271—*Lord North to the King.*

[3 *April*, 1778.]

Lord North has the honour of informing his Majesty that Lord Chief Justice De Grey declines to quit the Chief Justice's place with expressions of complaint, and Lord North is informed that he will think himself much hurt if Mr. Thurlow has a peerage without the same honour is granted to him. He says that every Attorney General of this reign has had a Peerage except Sr. Fletcher Norton and him ; that Sr. Fletcher is in a situation that leads to a coronet ; that He, who served in difficult times, who has a fortune in possession and expectation equal to a Peerage, and who is of the oldest Gentleman's families in Great Britain, and who has now been for some time in one of the highest seats of Justice, conceives himself well intitled to any honours that Mr. Thurlow or Mr. Wedderburn can pretend to. Both He and his son complain much of the slur intended to be thrown upon him on the other hand, the Solicitor General considers himself as ill used, and complains the more heavily of it, as he says, with justice that he has given both in and out of Parliament the most cordial and useful support.

In this situation Lord North will be, if possible, worse supported than he is at present, and have an increase of enemies.

Lord North is a good deal out of order to-day with the fatigues of last night, and these fresh vexations, but will endeavour to weather them. He will send for Mr. Thurlow tomorrow as it will the first day when he will be able to talk with him in any detail. He will convey to him exactly his Majesty's wishes, and, with his permission, see by what means he may still hope to receive some support in the Hs. of Commons, of which he will in a few days be intirely deprived.

DOWNING STREET,
Friday 3 *o'clock*, P.M.

No. 2272—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 168.

Lord North—Whenever a difficulty arises in affairs the longer it is delayed the more fresh ones naturaly arise, at first appearance the new one started by the Chief Justice seems unpleasant, but on consideration I find it alieviates many for it would be impossible to give him a Peerage at this time, consequently he will decline retiring, therefore the Solicitor General must decide between being Attorney General or consenting to have the Master of the Rolls persuaded to make place for him; by either of these means he will be kept in the House of Commons, as to the Chief Justice thinking himself ill used if Mr. Thurlow is made a Peer, it has not the smallest foundation; I offered him the Great Seal and a Peerage he declined both; I want an able Chancellor and therefore have pitched on Mr. Thurlow it is no preference, the giving a Man a Peerage because he holds an Office in which he cannot be of compleat use without a Seat in the House of Lords.

Queens House
April 3rd 1778. $\frac{m}{2}$ *pt.* 6 p.m.

Draft and fair copy in the King's handwriting.

No. 2273—*Lord Weymouth to the King.*

Nothing can be more likely to bring the business to a speedy and proper conclusion than your Majesty's answer to Lord North. I will endeavour to prepare a rough sketch to Ld. Grantham for tomorrow, and will certainly not forget to speak to Ld. Geo. Germaine on Lord Cornwallis's departure.

Arlington Street,
April 3d., 1778.
5 o'clock p.m.

No. 2274—*Mr. Horace Walpole to Lord* [?].

April 5, 1778.

My dear Lord—Sr. John Wodehouse has been with me again, and has been with my Nephew, but has had no success in dissuading him for sending both battalions to Norwich. I find all the Norfolk gentlemen now in town equally alarmed at this measure; and as there is no time to be lost, I believe, if I may presume to say so, that it will be necessary to have it intimated to Lord Orford, that his Majesty wishes to have that Disposition altered, the greatest Inconveniences being apprehended; and that both battalions should be quartered, as they used to be, at Yarmouth and Dereham. Perhaps this being intimated by Lord Townshend from his Majesty might be a proper channel. However, It was my Duty to state these apprehensions; my Nephew is so impetuous that I fear nothing but his Majesty's name will controul him. I am in great pain at the thought of his commanding the Militia at all at present himself, both as it will hurry him too much, and as I fear he will only exhibit scenes that are surely not fit for the public eye.

I never saw Sr. John Wodehouse till thursday last, but he appears a most amiable sensible gentleman, and expresses so much tenderness for my Nephew, and at the same time such prudent attention to the Public, that I cannot doubt but his apprehensions are well founded. I am going to sleep out of Town to compose my own mind a little, that is much agitated with these distresses, but shall be back tomorrow by dinner, if you have any commands for My dear Lord, Yr most obedient

Hor. Walpole.

No. 2275—*Communicated to the Cabinet* [*by Lord Sandwich*].

[In Lord Sandwich's handwriting.]

April 6th 1778.

Present: Ld. Weymouth, Ld. George Germaine, Ld. North, Ld. Amherst, Ld. Sandwich.

It is my opinion that there are not ships enough as yet in readiness to form a Squadron fit to meet the Toulon fleet under

Monsr. D'Estaing, unless we were to sacrifice every other intended service to this object; or to send out Admiral Keppel with a proper force to try to meet Monsr. D'Estaing; which however seems to me a very dangerous measure, as our own coast and Ireland would then be subject to alarms, as the Brest fleet (without considering the fleet of Spain) would be superior to any thing we shall have ready for sea till Admiral Keppel's return.

No. 2276—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 169.

QUEENS HOUSE,
April 6th 1778
$\frac{m}{46}$ *pt.* 10 P.M.

LORD NORTH—It is unpleasing to see Gentlemen so little concerned for their Country as to let the House Tax be only carried by five Votes; the making only houses of £10 rent pay it would have reduced it very much and consequently have obliged Parliament the next Session, by an additional tax to have made up the deficiency and to every new Tax must be added the charge of Management.

A Messenger is just arrived from Berlin, the King of Prussia seems desirous of forwarding our Treaty with Russia, provided he meets with assistance; I have upon this acquainted Lord Suffolk that the letters must be laid before a Cabinet tomorrow that it may be determined whether some additional orders must not be given to Mr. Elliot. I am sorry the K. of Prussia stoops to tell untruths, which certainly is the case in an insinuation that Austria encouraged France to make the Treaty with the Rebels, and has pressed Her to attack my German Dominions.

No. 2277—*Lord North to the King.*

[6 *April*, 1778.]

Lord North has the honour of sending his Majesty some inclosures.

The First is a note from the Chancellor, requesting that his Majesty would send to the House of Lords a Commission on

Thursday to pass a number of private Bills, and give his Royal assent on Friday to the Tax Bills.

The second is a letter from Mr. Baldwyn at Cairo containing a very bad piece of news, viz: the death of Sr. John Clavering. Lord North would fain believe that it is not true, but it comes from too good authority, and is too consonant to the account formerly received of Sr. John's bad state of health, not to cause much uneasiness in those who know how valuable his life was to his family and the Public.

The letter from the Solicitors and Mr. Eden, with the inclosure from Mr. Pulteney chances [?] to be sent to his Majesty; His Majesty will see the state of the Paris negociation, and, if it is agreable to his Majesty to return any answer to Mr. Eden's question, Lord North will not fail to inform Mr. Eden of it, tomorrow morning, before he goes to court.

The House of Commons was taken up to-day in the Committee upon the Acts restraining the Trade of Ireland; Lord North imagines that his Majesty has heard what passed in the House of Lords: Lord Chatham is much better this Evening: He was given over for some time.

Downing Street,
Monday night.

No. 2278—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North, having heard an objection against the message signed yesterday by his Majesty, viz: that the title of Royal Highness given to the Duke of Gloucester was improper in a message from his Majesty, has desired Sr. Stanier Porten to prepare another message which he has the honour of sending to his Majesty for his signature.

Tuesday, April 7 [1778 ?].

No. 2279—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of inclosing a letter which he has just received from Lord Adam Gordon, and begs leave to repeat, what he has often taken the liberty of mentioning to his Majesty

before, that no member of the House of Commons has been more uniform and zealous in support of government than Lord Adam.

Lord North begs leave to add, that upon the report of the vacancy of the Government of Berwick Lord Lisburne called upon Lord North and desired him to recommend his Brother to his Majesty's notice, but Lord North having learnt immediately after, that the promotion would go among the Lieutenant Generals He did not mention Lord Lisburne's request to his Majesty. He thinks it right however to mention it at present, in case further arrangement should leave an opening for Major General Vaughan.

Lord North has the honour of inclosing a letter he has received from the Vice-Chancellor of Oxford ; He has sent the Euripides by the Messenger.

Downing Street, *Tuesday, April* 7 [1778].

No. 2280—*The King to Lord North.*

Lord North—There is a very improper warmth in Lord Adam Gordon's letter that undoubtedly would be a good reason never to promote him, but I am above remembring improprieties when Men have good qualities ; I have [appointed] Lord Adam Gordon to Tinmouth, I thought it right in the arrangement to offer that Government to Lord Percy who has most strangely refused it, I shall not be in an hurry therefore to offer him another ; I meant it as a feather he chose to think it was meant as a reward, how he knows my own motives better than I do myself I cannot pretend to explain.

Queens House,
April 7th 1778.
$\frac{m}{10}$ *pt.* 2 P.M.

No. 2281—*Lord Weymouth to the King.*

[? 7 *April*, 1778.]

Lord Chatham's fitt seems to be of the most serious kind, he appeared expiring for some time, he was then carried into the Prince's Chamber and had no sign of Life or sense for above half

an hour, Dr. Addington was sent for, when he came, he said it was Apoplectic, but if no vessell in the head was burst, he might recover, between six and seven he came a little to his sense, but his life is very doubtful, most people seem to think that he will never come out again.

$\frac{m}{45}$ *past seven* P.M.

No. 2282—*The King to Lord North.*

Lord North, May acquaint the Lord Chancellor that he may prepare the Commission for passing the Private Bills on Thursday and that I shall on Friday give my Assent in Person to the Tax Bills.

I am deeply afflicted at what I fear too authentic an account of the death of Sir John Clavering, I know that I have lost a most excellent Officer and a truly valuable Man, one whom neither difficulties nor any other consideration could swerve from the right path.

I do not think much is to be built on the note from Mr. Pulteney, probably the old Doctor may wish to keep a door open, but as it does not delay the Commission, it can be of no disservice.

The giving an Audience to Foreign Ministers when they go abroad is now become customary it used only to be to Ambassadors ; on this occasion it is not necessary and would be rather unpleasant, as Eden does not seem to wish it, I desire he will prevent its being expected.

QUEENS HOUSE, *April 8th* 1778.

$\frac{m}{46}$ *pt.* 7 A.M.

No. 2283—*Lord Barrington to the King.*

CAVENDISH SQUARE,
8th April 1778.

I have obey'd your Majesty's Commands by notifying Lord Adam Gordon to be Governor of Tynmouth. I shall report when I have next the honour to attend your Majesty on the Memorials of Major Blakeney and Lieutenant de Courcy. BARRINGTON.

No. 2284—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 171.

Lord North—Having had so many subjects to talk upon with you this day, I omitted enquiring whether you had seen the Attorney General and acquainted him that I intend without farther loss of time to conferr the Great Seal on him; indeed after the answer of Lord Chief Justice De Grey there cannot be any arrangement made for the Solicitor General in the Court of Common Pleas; perhaps the Master of the Rolls might be persuaded to retire; the best choise would be if the Solicitor would become Attorney General.

May not the political exit of Lord Chatham encline You to continue at the head of my affairs, if it will not you cannot be surprised I again mention it, and Must here add I cannot begin to form any plan untill Mr. Thurlow is in possession of the Great Seal.

Queens House,
April 8th 1778.
$\frac{m}{15}$ *pt.* 7 P.M.

Draft, endorsed by the King, and fair copy in his handwriting.

No. 2285—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of informing his Majesty that the questions moved to-day by Mr. Hartley in the Committee on the State of the Nation were set aside by a Motion for the Chairman to leave the chair. There was no division. Lord North supposes that his Majesty knows that the Tax Bills will not be ready for the Royal assent till Wednesday.

Thursday, April 9, 1778.

No. 2286—*Lord Weymouth to the King.*

Some opposition being made to-day to the Tax bill, and some amendment to be proposed tomorrow, will prevent the Bills

being ready for your Majesty's Royal assent till Tuesday at soonest.

The Chancellor intends sending your Majesty the Commission for tomorrow.

ARLINGTON STREET,
April 9th, 1778
$\frac{m}{10}$ *past five* P.M.

No. 2287—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of sending for his Majesty's signature if approved the Warrants for the three American Commissioners.

Thursday, April 9th [1778].

No. 2288—*The King to Lord North.*

LORD NORTH—I have signed the Warrants for the Equipage Money and Weekly Pay of the three Commissioners, but have been disappointed in receiving two boxes from You without any answer to the letter I wrote the last evening.

QUEENS HOUSE,
April 9th 1778.
$\frac{m}{22}$ *pt.* 10 P.M.

Draft, endorsed by the King, and fair copy in his handwriting.

No. 2289—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of informing his Majesty that Mr. Powys's motion for enlarging the powers of the Commissioners was after long debate set aside by a motion for the Chairman to leave the chair which put an end to the Committee upon the State of the Nation. There was no division. The only supporters of Mr. Powys were Sr. George Saville, Mr. Fox, & Sr. Harbord

Harbord and Mr. Burke. If there had been any Division, the numbers in favour of the motion would have been small. Mr. Dunning, Mr. Pulteney, Govr. Johnstone, Mr. Thomas Walpole, Sr. James Lowther, Mr. Thos. Townshend, and Sr. George Yonge spoke against the question.

Friday evening,

$\frac{m}{25}$ *pt.* 10. *April* 10 [1778].

Enclosure.

SPEAKERS 10th April 1778.

On Mr. Wilkes's Motion for an address to His Majesty to lay before the House the Proofs of the Marriage of the Duke of Gloucester and the Duke of Cumberland.

For it	Against it
Mr. Wilkes	Mr. Rigbye
Lord Irnham	Lord North
	Mr. Thos. Townshend
Sir James Lowther to withdrawn this Motion, but declared that he would move for a Dower for the Dutchesses.	Mr. Thos Walpole
	Mr. Dunning
	Mr. Harris

Motion withdrawn.

Mr. Powis's Motion for to give fuller Powers to the Commissioners.

For it	Against it
Mr. Powis	Mr. Thos. Walpole
Sr. Harbord Harbord	Mr. George Johnstone
Mr. Fox	Lord Advocate moved to leave the Chair
Mr. Burke	Lord Mulgrave
Sir George Saville	Mr. Thos. Townshend
Sir George Yonge	Sir James Lowther
	Lord North
	Mr. Dunning

Question put to leave the Chair and carried without a Division.

No. 2290—*The King to Lord North.*

Lord North—I think it best on this occasion to send the letter to the Nabob of Arcot in my own hand, I have therefore sent to Sir Stanier Porten for the usual titles given to him, and shall in the Evening send the letter to Mr. Robinson, hoping you will have taken the benefit of this fine day by going to Bushy.

Queens House,
April 12*th* 1778.
$\frac{m}{36}$ *pt.* 10 A.M.

No. 2291—*The Adjutant-General to the King.*

I have seen Mr. Eden since I wrote to your Majesty and as sometimes misapprehensions arise from want of accuracy, I beg'd him to be particular in his Enquiries whether the omission in the Commission did after all actually exist, as it seem'd to me almost impossible it shou'd. The Result is contain'd in the inclosed note which I have this instant received—This, I presume, your Majesty will think, renders my Letter to Lord George unnecessary.

Duke St., Westmt.
April 12, 1778,
$\frac{m}{30}$ *pt.* 10 P.M.

No. 2292—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of informing his Majesty that the Hs. of Commons has given leave to Sr. Philip Jennings to bring in a Bill for disabling Contractors who have not made their contracts in consequence of advertisements from sitting in Parliament.

Ayes 71
Noes 50

Our friends did not attend.

No. 2293—*The King to Lord North.*

[? *April*, 1778]

Lord North—As You wish so much that Mr. de Grey may have hopes upon a Vacancy that His Son will be appointed Groom of the Bedchamber I will consent to it though I think the Father highly unreasonable and cannot think of making an additional one on purpose.

$\frac{m}{55}$ *pt.* 10 A.M.

No. 2294—*Mr. Robinson to the King.*

Mr. Robinson is most highly concerned, that he has only this Instant received His Majesty's Commands of last Night, through the inadvertency of his Servant, not knowing that the Letter came from His Majesty. Mr. Robinson was with Lord North at Bushy Park yesterday, and staid out of Town last Night, and this Morning had an Appointment to see Governor Johnstone and Mr. Ferguson at Kensington Gore, which made Mr. Robinson so late in coming to town to Day ; these Accidents have occasioned the delay in executing His Majesty's Commands, which Mr. Robinson humbly hopes His Majesty will be graciously pleased to pardon.

Mr. Robinson returns one of the Red Boxes, as His Majesty commands, the other, Lord North took with him, he is informed, to Bushy Park ; Mr. Robinson also sends in the Box, a Draft of the Letter to the Nabob of Arcot, as His Majesty directs. Lord North is not yet come to town.

Parliament Street,
13*th April* 1778.
12 M.

No. 2295—*The King to Lord North.*

Lord North—I have exactly copied the draft of the letter made by Mr. Robinson and send it unto You ; having got from Sir Stanier Porten the proper titles as given by me to the Nabob of Arcot it is in all particulars agreable to precedent.

I see by the Division of last night the Country Gentlemen must as you expected have taken the opportunity to shew their love for Contractors, but as the latter Gentlemen have many friends, I do not doubt in the Course of the stages of the Bill, they will find a fortunate occasion to throw it out.

QUEENS HOUSE,
April 14*th* 1778.
$\frac{m}{30}$ *pt.* 7 A.M.

No. 2296—*The King to the Nabob of Arcot.*

[*April*, 1778.]

GEORGE the Third by the Grace of God, King of Great Britain, France and Ireland, Defender of the Christian Faith, Duke of Brunswick and Lunenburgh, Arch Treasurer and Prince Elector of the Holy Roman Empire, and Sovereign of the Seas etc. To Nabob Waulaujah Unmeerul Hind Oomdaht ul Moolck, Serajah Dowlah Ameer-ul Deen Khaun Bahander, Masoor Iung, Sepay Sardar, Nawab of Arcot, and the Carnatick.

Your Letter has been faithfully delivered unto Us, with your Will and Testament, which as a Mark of your dependance on the Justice of Our Protection, you desire to repose in our hands: We will securely keep it unopened, untill the Almighty who by His Wisdom ruleth all things, shall please to call You to the Regions of Bliss and Eternity.

The marks of Attention and Regard which You have sent Us, We received with Pleasure and will preserve, and We will retain in Our mind a constant remembrance of Your Friendship.

We have given it in Command to Our Ministers to attend to Your Affairs, and We pray that God may long preserve and protect You, Your Family and Country, in Health, Happiness, and Prosperity.

Given at Our Court at St. James's the fourteenth Day of April, One thousand Seven hundred and Seventy Eight, in the Eighteenth Year of Our Reign.

Your affectionate Friend,

Draft.

Enclosure.

Translation of a letter in the Persian language to his Majesty the King of Great Britain, France and Ireland etc. etc. etc. from Wallajau Nabob of the Carnatick etc.

May it please your Majesty,

In my late address of Friendship to your Majesty, I did myself the honor of submitting to your Royal perusal, a Copy of the Resolutions of your Governor General in support of my Rights; so deeply am I sensible of your determination to maintain the Guaranty of your most Illustrious Grandfather, and of your Majesty in my favour, that I am conscious I could not have sent you a more acceptable present from the East.

In happiness and adversity my Eyes are continually directed to your Majesty. On the present occasion, I very particularly beg your Royal Attention.

One of my Greatest Sources of Anxiety and trouble for some time back, has been the Interference of your Subjects with my Family Affairs. Your Majesty is at once, the best of Fathers, as well as the best of Kings. You will therefore feel how improper it is (as well as contrary to my law) that any Son should think himself Independent of his Father, and rely on other Support.

Till my Friends the Gentlemen of the Company were induced, by false Representations in Europe, to interfere about the Succession to my Government, my Mind was easy and saw no danger—But to put an end to troubles of this kind in future, and especially that I may give your Majesty the most undoubted proof that a Sovereign Prince can give of his entire Dependence on your Majesty, I have come to a Resolution of making and committing to your Majesty's Charge, my Will and Testament relative to my Family and Dominions.

It is contained in the enclosed paper sealed by my Seal and Chop, and signed by my Signature, and entirely written with my own hand. No Eye on Earth has seen the contents but my own, nor is there any person that is inform'd of the contents but myself.

A Copy of my said last Will and Testament I transmit to the Governor General to be kept, like that sent to your Majesty, under the sacred Seal of Secresy, 'till it pleases God to end my

Days. Another Copy I keep in my own hands for the Governor and Council of Madrass. I reserve to myself the power of making a new Testament when it is agreeable to me, and of sending the same to your Majesty and your Governor General.

Your Majesty on receiving this letter will no doubt order all your Subjects, who are concerned, to be informed that your Majesty is the Keeper and Executor of my Will and Testament, and that no other person interfere therein. I do not know of any other Method by which I can more fully prove my entire dependence on your Majesty, or I would adopt it. It is not only during my Life, but even after it that I depend on your Majesty, and I trust in God that as long as the Crown of Great Britain remains, so long shall my Family, and my Country enjoy its protection. Your Majesty has firmly established my Rights on the Foundation of the Treaty of Paris. When the Company's Charter comes under your Royal Consideration, I rely that you will add further consideration to my Rights. What can I say more.

Done at CHEPANTE 27*th Zehige of*
1190 *Hegira, or* 7*th February* 1777.

P.S. As I wish a Remembrance of my Friendship to be always near your Royal Heart, I send by Mr. Macpherson, one of your faithful Subjects, who has served me with great Honor and Ability, a Star of white Stones. It will be presented to your Majesty by my Vaqueel Colonel Macleane, and I beg your Majesty to wear it, tho' but one day for my Sake.

No. 2297—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

Lord Sandwich has the honour to forward to your Majesty a letter from the Captain of the Formidable, with the agreable account that the Victory got down to Blackstakes yesterday, and that the Formidable will probably follow her to morrow.

ADMIRALTY
April 14*th* 1778.

No. 2298—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of inclosing the Speakers and numbers upon Sr. George Saville's motion for repealing the Quebec act. The House had been taken up so long in the Committee upon the recruiting Bill that Sr. George did not make his motion till half an hour after six, and the debate ended suddenly about eight o'clock before several persons who intended to be present could arrive at the House.

Tuesday, April 14 [1778], $\frac{m}{15}$ *pt.* 9 P.M.

No. 2299—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 172.

Lord North—Seeing the embarassement you had got into from strong solicitations, of pressing me to grant three Peerages on the promotion of Mr. Thurlow to the Great Seal, and feeling on my part how much my consenting to it would be blamed in the public, I resolved to take on myself the unpleasant task of at least getting one of them postponed; that You might not be blamed by any one of the parties concerned, I saw Mr. De Grey early this morning told him it was without Your knowledge or that of any other person, that I felt the Chief Justice might wish to have a Peerage as an advantage to his family, for that from his state of health it could not enable him to attend Parliament, that three Peerages to his Profession would not be right, that I could not consent to it; but if the Chief Justice would consent to retire for the convenience of my Service, I would promise on the first promotion of persons to Peerages exclusive of the present Law arrangement, I would confer one on him, and that if he should not live till then, it should as in the case of Sir John Cust, be conferred on his Son. The Chief Justice has sent Mr. De Grey to explain his hearty acquiescence, of which the enclosed paper is an exact Copy. I desire therefore not an hour longer may be delayed in my calling forth the Attorney General and in gratifying the wishes of the Solicitor General; I am willing to mention to

the Lord Chancellor myself the necessity of his resigning, and am certain he will rather chuse the intimation should come from me, than any other person.

Queens House,
April 15*th*, 1778.
$\frac{m}{58}$ *pt.* 8 P.M.

Draft, endorsed by the King, and fair copy in his handwriting.

No. 2300—*The Lord Chief Justice to the King.*

Memorandum

To express the Chief Justice's profound submission to His Majesty's Royal Pleasure and His Sentiments of Gratitude for His Majesty's great Goodness to Him and His Family: and that He does repose Himself with so much Security and Confidence in His Majesty's gracious declaration; that He cannot hesitate a moment to assure His Majesty of his perfect reliance on His Royal Intention to advance to an English Peerage Him or His Family among the next promotion after the present.

April 15, 1778.
Lincoln's Inn Fields.

Endorsed by the King, Memorandum delivered by Mr. de Grey.

Copy in the King's handwriting.

No. 2301—*Lord North to the King.*

[15 *April*, 1778.]

Lord North has the honour of transmitting to his Majesty some curious letters which he has received from Mr. Thornton by Ogg the messenger: If they are true they confirm the conjecture of Lord North that the French declaration was precipitated, and that they are not so ready as we have supposed them to be. From one part of the intelligence, supposing it to

be authentick, it appears now to be lamented that we can not send out a squadron to meet the Toulon Fleet while in the Meditteranean, as their destination is uncertain; and they may perhaps, sail to the East or West Indies, instead of joining or endeavouring to join the Brest Squadron.

Wednesday Eveng.

No. 2302—*Lord George Germain to the King.*

Lord George Germain upon looking over the appointments of the Judges in Canada with Lieutenant General Haldimand finds it more proper to recommend to your Majesty that Mr. Braser should succeed William Owen in the Court of Common Pleas in Montreal, if your Majesty approves of the Alteration you will be pleased to insert the name of William Owen over that of Edward Southdore which is scratch'd out. Lord George sends the Commission for Monsieur St. Luc which your Majesty order'd.

WHITEHALL, *April 15th* 1778, $\frac{m}{40}$ *pt.* 9 P.M.

No. 2303—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

ADMIRALTY ½ *past* 8 A.M.
April 16th 1778

Lord Sandwich has the honour to inform your Majesty that he has sent to Captain Digby, who is in town, to be with him this morning at ten o'clock, and he begs to know at what hour he shall order him to attend on your Majesty.

No. 2304—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 173.

LORD NORTH—The papers transmitted by Thornton are if true very material, and confirm me in the wish of beating the Fleet commanded by d'Estaing, and I will this day see whether

Lord Sandwich cannot encourage Keppel on a promise of sending out additional Ships to the reinforcement of his Squadron, to detach a sufficient force to beat this Frenchman before he passes the Port of Gibraltar.

QUEENS HOUSE,
April 16th 1778.
$\frac{m}{42}$ *M.* P.M.

No. 2305—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

Lord Sandwich takes the liberty to inform your Majesty that he has seen Admiral Keppel this morning who is very desirous of having the honour of an audience before he sets out for Portsmouth, which he proposes to do on Teusday; he therefore begs to know when & where he may be allowed to attend on your Majesty to recieve your final commands.

ADMIRALTY,
April 17th 1778.

No. 2306—*Lord Weymouth to the King.*

It is very surprising that Your Majesty has had no answer from Lord North. Your Majesty knows that I have always been of opinion that delay cou'd be of no service to this business; by a letter which I have had this morning from the Attorney General, I find that the arrangement is already talked of in London, it's being known, I shou'd conceive an additional reason for hastening the execution of it; But I wou'd most humbly submitt to your Majesty whether it may not be proper for Lord North to see the Attorney General again & acquaint him with it, before he receives the official notification.

EALING, *April 17th* 1778. $\frac{m}{15}$ *past six* P.M.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2307—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 173.

KEW, *April* 18*th* 1778

$\frac{m}{34}$ *pt.* 8 A.M.

LORD NORTH—Not having received any answer to the letter I wrote unto You on Wednesday Evening, by which You saw I had removed the immediate difficulty of at one time creating three Law Peers; I to prevent delay sent on Thursday Evening for the Lord Chancellor, and explained the impossibility of continuing him in Office, he having declined to attend at the consultations of my Ministers for digesting the various Public matters, which from the War, would more than ever require the assistance of the person that held the Great Seal. He saw the necessity of my conduct and will with great propriety deliver the Seal whenever called upon by me. Thus the road is now plain for You, and as I find this arrangement is much talked of in London, no farther delay can be of utility; therefore I desire you will this day send to the Attorney General and fix at latest his coming tomorrow to Bushy, when You will notify that I mean to put the Seals on Wednesday into his hands: You will also acquaint me with the money arrangement proposed by the Chief Justice, that You may have my final consent to that transaction, and then You may acquaint the Solicitor General that on Wednesday he will be presented as Chief Justice, and have a Peerage. As soon as I have Your answer I will write to the Lord Chancellor and apprise him to attend on Wednesday.

Draft, endorsed by the King, and fair copy in his handwriting.

No. 2308—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

ADMIRALTY, *April* 18*th* 1778,
2 *o'clock* P.M.

Lord Sandwich has the honour to send to send to your Majesty the dispatches just recieved from Admiral Young.

The Princess Augusta Yatcht will be ready on Teusday [*sic*], and Sir Richard Bickerton says the tide will serve to sail on

Thursday from Greenwich at eleven o'clock your Majesty will therefore probably chuse to be on board at ten.

Lord Sandwich has seen Ld. Amherst & settled everything with him relative to the Forts on the Thames and Medway, and to what relates to his department while your Majesty is at Chatham.

The Formidable is got down to Blackstakes in safety.

No. 2309—*Lord North to the King.*

Sir—I was so hurried & teazed on Thursday that I found it absolutely necessary to go into the country in order to endeavour to collect my scatter'd thoughts, & to recover the use of my understanding, which had been thrown into the utmost confusion by the variety of business, importunities, & applications which drove me almost to distraction in the course of the last week.

I have, by one day's rest, recollected myself enough to be able to state to your Majesty the embarassements of my present situation. They arise almost entirely from that claim, which Mr. Wedderburn has set up, & in which I own, I have been forced in some degree to incourage him, of being placed upon the Bench & in the House of Peers at the same time with Mr. Thurlow. If he would have been content to succeed in a regular way to the office of Attorney General. It would free your Majesty from much inconveniency, & me from the most perplexing embarassment at the time when Lord Suffolk, Mr. Eden, & He had sketch'd out that plan of a new administration, which I sent to your Majesty, I thought the Solicitor's wishes might be gratified without much difficulty, as the world would not have been surprized at seeing Mr. Wedderburn permanently & amply provided for at the time of making a great & extensive arrangement. In the present state of the business, these inconveniencies will probably be the consequence :

1st. Ld. Ch. Justice De Grey expects an annual pension of £2,500 nett, which is near £700 more than Ld. Ch. J. Wilmot's. Mr. de Grey says that Mr. Eden in my name, authorized him to offer a pension of that amount : I do not recollect having given any such authority, But this is the demand of the Chief Justice,

which will from this time become the rate of the pension for every Chief Justice of the Common Pleas who shall retire from his Court.

2dly. Mr. Wedderburn's obtaining a Peerage, will induce every future Lord Ch. Justice of the Common Pleas to expect it which, perhaps, would not have been the case, if he had been advanced as part of the plan for forming a new administration, in order to make way for Mr. Dunning to succeed to the Post of Attorney General.

These two inconveniencies affect Government permanently, & are therefore of great importance : The embarassements which affect me personally are less material, because they only relate to me, but they will distress me beyond measure, as it [has] not been usual to give a Peerage to the Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, all those who have solicited for Peerages will come upon me, & with some reason, as many of them are as well intitled to expect that honour as Mr. Wedderburn whose merit with me is considerable from the assistance he has given me, but it is not known, & will not be allow'd by the world especially by the other aspirers to the Peerage. This circumstance makes me most earnestly wish that if your Majesty can release me at the end of the Session, Mr. Wedderburn's promotion may not take place before, as I really shall not be able to stand the storm & violence which the Candidates for the Peerage will bring upon me ; A New Man, who has never had any conferences, or received any applications upon the subject, may be able to go through it, but I do not feel that it will be possible for me to do it.

It is much to be wished that during the present recess, some acquisition might be made from the opposition & Mr. Dunning be persuaded to be Attorney General. It is equally to be wish'd that Mr. Wedderburn would be satisfied for a time at least to wave the Peerage.

These two points carried would relieve me from great difficulties, & give a real strength to Government, but as I doubt whether it will be possible to succeed in either, the next thing to be done is to persuade Mr. Wedderburn to stay till the end of the Session, & to look out for as good an Attorney & Solicitor General as we can get. Mr. Wallace & Mr. Mansfield, the gentlemen who stand the foremost, are sensible men, & good Lawyers, but I doubt whether in Parliament, we shall draw from them all

the assistance we shall want. The immediate consequence of any step being taken (even the nomination of the New Chancellor) will be much violence in the Hs. of Commons for the three weeks that remain of the Session, & I have no doubt that I shall be left to myself, as I have hitherto been.

Your Majesty sees, that I must have a good deal of negociation with the Lord Chief Justice & Mr. Wedderburn, before the change of their offices is ripe for execution & that the Attorney & Solicitor General ought to be fixed upon before the New Chief Justice kisses hands. Your Majesty must see likewise how much it is to be wish'd that this arrangement should be accompanied by some acquisition from our opponents. It will, otherwise leave [me] in the most weak, embarassed, unsupported situation possible.

If your Majesty continues in your kind intention of releasing me at the end of the Session, I submit that my successor ought to be inform'd of these plans, most especially, He ought to be consulted upon the choice of an Attorney & Solicitor General. It would be better for us both : He would acquire some important friends, & I should be free from a great part of those complaints & reproaches to which I shall be liable from several quarters, if Mr. Wedderburn's Peerage takes place while I remain in office.

I will send immediately to the Attorney General to desire the pleasure of his company tomorrow at Bushy, &, if your Majesty chuses that I should embark in any of the other negociations, I will employ myself in them during the recess.

I beg leave to subscribe myself, with the utmost duty & veneration, Sir, Your Majesty's most obliged, most obedient & most devoted subject & servant. NORTH.

DOWNING STREET,
April 18, 1778.

No. 2310—*Lord Weymouth to the King.*

By Lord North's letter, it seems that he is determined to retire at the end of the Session, it is very wonderful that with this intention he shou'd first have engaged Your Majesty to promise a Peerage to the Solicitor General, & now wish to postpone

it; in the present situation of things, Your Majesty can not do better than put off the whole of the arrangement, I will send to Mr. Thurlow and tell him Your Majesty's intentions but I hope Your Majesty will not object to my informing him of the present situation of affairs, considering the office in which he is to be placed, there can be no inconvenience in it, & indeed his advice may not only be useful but perhaps necessary for future arrangements. I hope it is needless to say that my life and services are devoted to Your Majesty, in whatever manner you may think fit to employ them, & that the inconvenience to which these uncertainties & indecisions must put Your Majesty, go to my heart.

EALING,
April 18*th* 1778.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2311—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 175.

LORD NORTH—As the letter I have received from You plainly shews that at all events You expect to be released from Your situation at the close of this Session, and that You cannot extricate Yourself for that small period if the Law Arrangements You Yourself had proposed to me take place; I think it upon the whole best to make no arrangement this recess, and therefore You are dispensed from taking any steps concerning the present Attorney and Solicitor Generals, or any Successors to them, which I hope will enable You to spend the next Week quietly at Bushy, that You may recruit Your mind to carry on the business in the House of Commons for the remainder of this Session.

KEW, *April* 18*th* 1778.
$\frac{m}{20}$ *pt.* 7 P.M.

Draft, endorsed by the King, and fair copy in his handwriting.

No. 2312—*Admiral Keppel to the King.*

Printed. Donne II. 176.

[*April*, 1778 ?].

In the present Important Moment of concern, It is Impossible to keep thoughts in total silence, I never Allow Myself to form plans in my Imagination for Exertion & Enterprise Upon the Enemy, without continually meeting a compleat check or stop, from the Want of the force both of land & sea, that is Employ'd in North America, but I will Interfere as little as possible with that great question, It seems decided, yet I may be permitted to say the Great Land force as well as sea force in that part, the number of transports, of Victuallers, of Ordnance ships & other store ships, Employ the Largest stock of seamen belonging to this Country, and therefore till I can see my way in this great Consideration, I must be rather silent, and Content myself, with hopes, tho not the certainty of being able to face the french where-ever they may suddenly shew themselfs, for which purpose, My first consideration & proposition wou'd be : supposing the Great Fleet Tolerably Strong, to form a plan & in great haste, for a Fleet of frigates, cutters & small craft of every sort, to be able to disappoint the French in the Attempts they may make to land upon the Coasts of England & Ireland Land Force will be wanted to receive & check, bodies of the Enemies' troops, that may Escape the Vigilence of the English Fleets, As Indeed there are many circumstances & probable situations that may render the Fleet of resistence Unable to stop that of the Enemies, And now in regard to the great Fleet, the Consideration of its being the Bulwark & real safety of these dominions, I cannot but think, that in every view of it, It should be *preserved in Force* superior to the Enemies If possible, and depend upon good Intelligence for Adopting any *seperation* of it, should the Enemy send a large detatchment of its Fleet to either West or East Indies, the same force may be Instantly sent from this Country, but till that is clearly understood, sending any considerable detatchment from Home can have little other Effect than weakening our Force, & Yet remaining Insufficiently strong Abroad to resist the Enemy, What is to be Apprehended by it, is that the Enemy will be able

to beat & disperse such Inferiority as four or five ships wou'd be (that is Admitting that they get out unobserved) and being so successfull, the Additional force sent of four or five ships to strengthen up others, might be defeated in their turn, those they Expected to join having met that fate before them, some means & Exertions must be thought of, to raise 8 or 9,000 men For the Fleet, If the services can be carried on without disgrace, to the period of such a recruit of men, the face & Appearances of things wou'd much change, but in the present moment I must repeat, that it wou'd be Unwise to seperate the great Fleet by detatchment, Such a measure might put the sea force of England, in the exact state of that of the French, *divided* & left to the posibility of being cutt off from joining, I am therefore firm in my Opinion that detachment & seperation is dangerous & risks to much, If the Spaniards joins the French fleet from Toulon, the seige of Gibraltar may be their Object & in that thought, all sea force to that place not compleatly Adequate is given away. (I don't mean that a risk, If supplies are necessary must not be run), If the destination of the Toulon Fleet can ever be Ascertained, suppose West or East, Equal force will on course be sent close Upon them, The Length of time for the Great Fleets keeping the sea is a matter of the Utmost consequence to have in constant Consideration.

No. 2313—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

Lord Sandwich has the honour to inform your Majesty of the arrival of Admiral Gayton in the Antelope from Jamaica, & has the pleasure to observe the account which he brings, of the capture of nine out of eleven French ships that sailed from Bordeaux for South Carolina.

Lord Sandwich takes this opportunity of sending the letters he has received from Commissioner Proby, & wishes to know whither your Majesty has any particular commands to give relative to their contents.

ADMIRALTY,
April 21*st*, 1778 *half past*
3 *o'clock.*

No. 2314—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of inclosing for his Majesty's perusal some letters which he has lately received from Ireland, & which he imagines that his Majesty will chuse to examine at his leisure before he honours Lord North with his commands upon the subject of them.

Downing Street, *Wednesday April* 22 [1778], 11 *o'clock.*

No. 2315—*Mr. Robinson to the King.*

Parliament Street,
26th April 1778.
2 P.M.

Mr. Robinson having this Instant only arrived here from Harwich, where Mr. North hath, agreeable to His Majesty's Commands, been unanimously elected a representative for that Borough in the room of the late General Harvey ; Mr. Robinson, did not, till just now, receive His Majesty's Commands sent to him in Parliament Street on Thursday last after he had left town for Harwich. Mr. Robinson will instantly give the necessary Orders to have the Mistake of the Box-maker corrected, and is most deeply concerned that he should so far depend upon the Assurances the Box-maker gave as not to try all the Boxes, and see that the Keys passed them, before he sent them to His Majesty, and occasioned His Majesty such Trouble. Mr. Robinson late on Wednesday Night on a further Examination of one of His Majesty's Boxes, which generally stood, with Papers on Lord North's Table in Downing Street, found a part of a key broke in it, which confirmed Mr. Robinson in his first Apprehensions, and he is happy to find that His Majesty is graciously pleased to approve of what he has done.

No. 2316—*Lord George Germain to Lord North.*

Pall Mall, *April 27th* 1778.

My Lord—I have this instant seen the dispatches from the Hague which bring so very particular and interesting an account

of the sailing of the Toulon Squadron and of the manner of it's equipment with Stores Cloathing, seamen etc. etc. and convinces me that the destination of that Fleet must be North America, where it will be joined by all the Marine force of the Rebellious provinces, and in that case will be able to attack and destroy our fleet in those seas and possess themselves either of Hallifax Philadelphia or Quebec, if some immediate Step be not taken by sending a strong Squadron to reinforce Lord Howe, and prevent the fatal consequences which may follow from the French having an avowed superiority at sea upon the Coast of North America. I never can sufficiently lament the not having sent a fleet to Gibraltar to prevent the Toulon Squadron passing the Straits, the risk of that measure was trifling in comparison of what we may suffer by leaving such a fleet at full Liberty to attack us in N. America the West Indies or Newfoundland; but having done all in my power that our fleet might be so employed, and Lord Sandwich not thinking it either adviseable or practicable I must content myself with having given my opinion according to the best of my poor judgment, and I must now only entreat your Lordship maturely to consider of the very alarming situation of this country, and to lose no time in advising His Majesty immediately to employ such a part of the fleet now at Spithead as may probably prevent the disgrace of this Kingdom, and not leave your Lordship and the other Ministers liable to be accused of inactivity in not endeavouring to avert those dangers which do immediately threaten us.

I am my Lord with great respect your Lordships Honble. Ser^{t}.

GEO. GERMAIN.

No. 2317—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 176.

LORD NORTH—Having heard yesterday from Lord Sandwich that tomorrow there will be a Cabinet on the intelligence concerning the sailing of the Toulon Squadron on the 13th of the month under the command of Count d'Estaing; I therefore enclose a Copy for Your information of the paper Admiral Keppel delivered to me the last time I saw him before his departure to

the Fleet; I have made it for Your own inspection therefore do not want to have it returned.

QUEENS HOUSE,
April 28*th* 1778.
$\frac{m}{15}$ *pt.* 7 P.M.

No. 2318—*Lord George Germain to the King.*

Lord George Germain has the honor of sending your Majesty a Draught of the Letter to the Lords of the Admiralty in consequence of the Minute of the Cabinet laid before your Majesty this day by Lord Weymouth. Your Majesty will be so good as to return the Box if your Majesty approves the Letter, so that it may be sent immediately to the Lords of the Admiralty.

PALL MALL, *April* 29*th* 50 *m. pt.* 7 P.M. 1778.

No. 2319—*Memorandum.*

[In the King's handwriting.]

Middlesex	Eastern Bn.	Enfield	3rd April 1778
	Western Bn.	Uxbridge	–do–
	Westminster Bn.	Hounslow	–do–
Surrey	two Battalions	Kingston	6th
Hampshire	North Bn.	Winchester	–do–
	South Bn.	Southampton	–do–
Wiltshire		Devizes	5th
Kent	West Bn.	Maidstone	7th
	East Bn.	Canterbury	–do–
Essex		Chelmsford	–do–
		Colchester	–do–
Lincolnshire	South Bn.	Stamford	8th
	North Bn.	Lincoln	9th

No. 2320—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of troubling his Majesty with a few lines upon a subject which Lord Sandwich mentioned to his Majesty this morning.

The appointment of Admiral Parker to command the squadron destined to follow Mr. d'Estaign may, in one case, expedite the sailing of the fleet, that is in case Admiral Byron's ship, which is in Plymouth harbour, should not be able to get out to sea. This difficulty may happen, as it is not easy in all winds to sail out of the Harbour of Plymouth.

On the other side, if Admiral Parker upon his arrival at Halifax, finds Admiral Gambier there, He will not be able to order his ship to join the fleet, but must put himself under the command of Admiral Gambier.

The choice to be made is between the certainty of avoiding the possible delay of Admiral Byron's ship, and the probability of having the fleet commanded by Mr. Gambier.

Lord North knows nothing from himself of Mr. Gambier's character, but he is not a favourite in the Navy.

Mr. Byron would command Mr. Gambier, but it is possible that his ship may be retarded.

Lord Sandwich is in doubt whether to send to Admiral Byron, or Admiral Parker, and desired Lord North to take his Majesty's pleasure, but he has been detained at the Treasury Board till this moment, and is obliged to request his Majesty's pleasure by letter.

Thursday, April 30 [1778].

No. 2321—*Lord North to the King.*

[30 *April*, 1778.]

Lord North has received his orders, & will communicate them to Lord Sandwich. He has the honour of informing his Majesty at the same time that it is Lord Sandwich's intention that the fleet shall sail from Portsmouth to Plymouth & there be joined by Admiral Byron in the Albion. The only doubt is whether it may not be difficult to get the Albion out of Plymouth harbour. Orders have been sent there & possibly she may be already clear & in the sound.

Thursday ½ *pt.* 5

No. 2322—*Lord North to the King.*

[The Bill in question was to exclude contractors from sitting in the House of Commons.]

Lord North has the honour of informing his Majesty that the second reading of Sir Philip Jenning's Bill has been carried notwithstanding the pains taken to prevent it.

Ayes 72.
Noes 61.

Lord North is sorry to say, that he considers the event of today as another proof that the Ho. of Commons is tired of supporting, and that it will certainly be necessary to make another arrangement for the business of the Ho. of Commons.

Friday, May 1st 1778,
½ *pt.* 2 P.M.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2323—*Orders for the King's journey to Portsmouth.*

[2 *May*, 1778.]

The Gold Stick, the Queen's Chamberlain, and the Equerry in Waiting to go in the Post Coach, with Post Horses on Friday May 1st to Godalmin, lye there and proceed in the morning to Petersfield, where four of the Black horses of the Equerries Sett, and a fifth horse to carry the helper are to attend the Post Coach to the Stage where the King takes his last Relay, and go before him to Portsmouth.

The two Aid de Camps to be provided with an hired Post Chaise from London to Portsmouth, if they chuse it they may lye at Godalmin, they are to be ready to receive the King a little before Two at Portsmouth, on Saturday May 2nd.

The King will go on Saturday morning in his Post Chaise, drawn by four of Figgates horses, one of the Saddle Grooms to attend, and as usual the Helper, the Two Footmen to ride Post horses.

At the 18 Mile Stone on the road to Leatherhead the four

remaining horses of Figgates Sett, an horse of the Equerries Sett for the helper, and one of the Hobby Grooms with two Post horses for the Footmen, to be ready by one Quarter after Seven.

At Hindhead four of Hainsworth's horses, another Hobby Groom, two Footmen to releive the two others with Post horses, and the helper on a fifth black Coach horse, to be ready at one Quarter after Nine.

Four more of Hainsworth's Sett, with an horse of the Equerries Sett, to carry the helper, and the third Hobby Groom, to be one Mile beyond Petersfield at Eleven.

The Queen's two Footmen, and the two of the King (that are to releive the two that ride from London to Hindhead) to go on the Footmen's hacks on Thursday April 30th. Ayres the Helper to attend as usual.

The King's two Footmen to be dropped at Godalmin that they may be ready to attend at Hindhead ; the Queen's two Footmen, Ayres, and the five hacks to go on to Petersfield, these Servants and hacks to be ready at the last Stage to attend to Portsmouth.

Four of the Queen's Bay horses that attend the Equerries with the fifth for the helper to draw quietly to Portsmouth the Post Chaise, used in Summer by Lady Charlotte Finch, for any use the Queen may have for it.

Parker ought to set out on Wednesday, and order the horses for Ramus's Post Chaise for Wednesday night, or Thursday morning at break of Day, and the Relays ; also, for Friday morning at break of Day for young Ramus, and the Queen's Page a Post Chaise and the Relays, also Horses for the Equerries Post Coach on Friday at ten o'clock, and the Post Chaise for the Aid de Camps, and on Saturday for the Queen's female Servants a Post Chaise at Six, and also the Relays on the road.

No. 2324—*Memorandum of the King relative to journey to Portsmouth.*

Saturday, May 2nd 1778.

Left the Queens House at 57 minutes past Five, arrived at Portsmouth at 57 minutes past twelve. Was received at the Commissioners by Lord Sandwich, Lord Amherst, Admiral Pye, Admiral Keppel, Vice Admiral Montague, Vice Admiral Harland,

Vice Admiral Pallisser, Rear Admiral Barrington, Rear Admiral Campbell, Rear Admiral Parker and Commissioner Hood.

Settled that Rear Admiral Parker should conduct the ships to Plymouth that are to make part of Vice Admiral Byron's Squadron and to be next in command to him.

Dined at 3 with the above Gentlemen and Lord Lothian, Lord Carmarthen, the two Aid de Camps, Lt. Gen. Monkton and Lt. Gen. Carpenter.

In the evening viewed the new buildings near the Hulk. Saw the Warrior 74 Guns whose time of being launched cannot be fixed as no hands are now employed in building but all in fitting Ships for Sea; the Marlborough 74 Guns which will be repaired in five Months; the Lyon 64 Guns will be ready for launching in Six Weeks; the Centaur will be out of Dock in ten days, the Fox 28 Guns will be out of Dock in ten days; the Burford 70 Guns end of June; the St. George 90 Guns building no hands now employed on Her; the Leopard 50 Guns just fixed the Elm Keel in the Ship; the Crocodile 24 Guns, and the Euridice 24 Guns both building but no hands on them; then went to the Smith's Shop and saw an anchor making for the [blank] 74 Gun Ship; then went to the boat builders; then walked by the Houses of the Officers of the Yard and returned Home.

Sunday, May 3rd. At ten went in the Post Chaise and Pair of Horses with the Queen, attended in the Leading Carriage by the Gold Stick in Waiting the Equerry and the two Aid de Camps, and followed in the Queen's Post Chaise by Her Lady of the Bedchamber and Chamberlain; to the Governors House and attended Divine Service in the Chappel of the Garrison.

Then received the Corporation who made a very loyal address, they begged to wait on the Queen to whom they also made a very affectionate address.

Then had a Levee at which most of the Nobility come to see the Fleet attended, and the Officers of the Navy and Army; no officers of the Navy were presented but those on Half pay.

Then returned to the Commissioners House in the same Order.

At three Dined with Lord Sandwich the five Attendants the two Admirals, the D. of Chandos, Lord Pembroke, Lord Amherst, Lt. G. Monkton, Lt. G. Keppel, Mr. G. Smith, the Commissioners and Sir Richard Bickerton.

At Six went with the Queen on board of the Sandwich 90 Guns, attended by Her Lady the five Gentlemen, Lord Sandwich, the Commissioner and Sir Richard Bickerton who steered the Barge. Saw the Men go through their exercise as in an Engagement.

The day was rainy which prevented seeing the Fleet from the Gallery at the stern of this fine Ship with any degree of perfection.

Monday May 4th. At Seven walked to the Gun Wharf found the Stores Houses in perfect repair, the guns in proper order, and the Carriages reported all perfectly sound.

At Nine walked to the Hulk and saw the Queen into the boat. She rowed to the Pss. Augusta Yacht lead by Admiral Pye in his Barge and attended by all the Vice Admirals, Rear Admirals and the Commanders of all the Ships at Spithead and in the Harbour, when she had assended the Yacht on a Signal the Fleet saluted, the Queen was attended in her Barge by Ly. Egremont, Ld. Carmarthen and Lord Sandwich. My Barge came back to the Hulk the officers of the Fleet remained at the Sally port; when I had rowed in my Barge up to them the Admiral lead the procession to the Prince George 90 Guns at Spithead the Vice and Rear Admirals, and the Commanders of Ships attending my Barge as they had done the Queen. I was saluted as the Queen had been by the Saluting Battery, Block House fort and South Sea Castle, and also by the Fleet; the Queen sailed in the Yacht after we had passed to see the Show; I went on board the P. George was met on the ladder by Captain Faulkner, at the entering Port by Rear Admiral Campbell who very honorably acts as Admirals Captain, and at the enterance of the Ship by Admiral Keppel, whom I had excused from attending in his Barge.

I then viewed the Mariners on the Middle Deck then went to the Quarter Deck where the Marines were drawn up saw the Captains Cabine then visited the three Decks to see the Men exercise as in Action when the Yacht advanced permitted the Ship to be manned and gave the Queen three cheers; then saw the whole oeconomy of the Ship, went on the Quarter Deck where I received all the Commanders of the Ships, had all the Lieutenants of the Ship presented then directed the Admirals to go on board their Barges and rowed in my Barge to the Pss. Augusta which had cast Anchor out of the line of the Ships.

The Queen dined with Her Lady in the interior Cabine I dined

on the Quarter Deck with Eight Admirals, Commodore Evans, Lord Sandwich the five attendants Lord Amherst Lt. G. Keppel Sir Rd. Bickerton; Drank the Queen's Health; the Fleet saluted, then success to the Fleet and to my good Subjects by Sea and Land, also a Salute at Five the Boats for the Admirals and those with Sea Commanders in them as in the morning by a Signal were assembled at the Stern of the Yacht, the Admirals went into their respective Barges and they rowed in the same order as in the Morning; I rowed in my Barge to view each Ship. and was much delighted at seeing them compleatly manned; I thought it might be too cold for the Officers therefore directed the barges to return with them to their Ships returned to the Yacht and sailed into the Harbour.

Tuesday, May 5th. Privately walked over great part of the Yard saw the opperation of sheathing the Centaur and examined where the Fire was attempted and where succeeded; that when I visited the Hemp and Rope Houses, my attention might not be taken off by hearing the story of John the Painter.

At Nine walked through the Town to a field with the Windmill where the 25th Regt. was drawn up went through the usual manoeuvres and succeeded extremely well though two Companies have been detached above a year and half and many Men not above three months enlisted into the Corps, which shews the expertness of officers and attention of the Men, then walked round the new Works, and the ramparts of the Town and returned to the Dock Yard. The Vice Admiral Montague, and Rear Admirals Barrington and Parker who had been invited to dinner excused themselves, the two first as they meant to get to St. Helens, the latter that he might forward his Squadron.

The five gentlemen of the Family, Lord Sandwich, Lord Granby, Ld. G. Lennox, Ld. Amherst, Lt. Genl. Monkton and Boyd, M.G. Smith, the Commissioner, and Sir Richard Bickerton dined with me.

In the Evening viewed the Rope House, the Men had left off having by five earned two days and an half task work which amounts to 4s. and 2d. per Man. Visited the Academy at which only 14 Scholars attend at this present time, visited the Storehouses, saw the Centaur's Sheathing, quite compleat, though begun only at five in the morning it was finished by twelve at Noon.

Wednesday, May 6th. At Nine conducted the Queen to see the whole process in the Rope and Tar Houses and to see the Spare Anchor, when She had returned to the Commissioners, embarked at the Hulk and crossed the Harbour to visit the Victualling Office at Weovil [*sic*], then returned to the Hulk and walked to the Bakehouse and Storehouses of that Branch in the Town and viewed the Marine Barracks and recruits.

At Dinner the Company consisted of the five of the Family Lord Sandwich Ld. Amherst Ld. G. Lennox, Lt. G. Monkton Major G. Smith, Admiral Pye, V. Adm. Pallisser and Sir Rd. Bickerton.

In the Evening conducted the Queen to see an Anchor repaired for the Vigilant, and then shewed the Reservoir, the embankment to secure the made ground, the Stone Docks and the Marlborough, Centaur, Lyon, Vigilant and Burford, as also the inside of the Frame of the St. George; then shewed the Mole Loft and part of the Claulk [*sic*] lines of the St. George on the floor.

No. 2325—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 179.

Portsmouth Dock Yard,
May 5th 1778.

Lord North—I intended to have left this place on Thursday morning, but found on visiting the Fleet at Spithead this day that several of the Ships intended to be part of Vice Admiral Byron's Squadron could not fix which day they would sail. I have therefore given notice to Admiral Pye, that I shall not leave Portsmouth untill Rear Admiral Parker is sailed, and have dispensed with Admiral Pye's attendance on me as also the Captains of those Ships untill the said Ships are reported ready to sail; this has put great allacrity into all of them, Sir Hugh Pallisser has since told me privately that my taking that step will make them sail many days sooner than they would else; Keppel and Campbell have since confirmed me in that opinion. I suppose I shall therefore end the week here; I have no object but to be of use if that is answered I am compleatly happy; the affection I have received from all ranks of people at this place deserve every degree of activity for the good of the Service, and no one is more hearty in the cause than myself.

No. 2326—*Lord Weymouth to the King.*

Arlington Street,
Wednesday night,
May 6th 1778.

Nothing very material having occurred is the reason that your Majesty has not been troubled with a Messenger at Portsmouth, but as your Majesty has prolong'd your stay there, thinking that your Majesty wou'd be glad to see the dispatches from Lord Grantham, a Messenger will be dispatch'd with them tomorrow morning, tho', by coming thro' Lisbon, they are of an antecedent date to what your Majesty has already seen, they contain, I think, a fuller account of the situation and opinions of the Court of Spain, than the Letters by Mr. Escarano's Messenger did.

Your Majesty will find in the box a *Secret* which says that the Toulon fleet is to go immediately to New York or Philadelphia to attack Lord Howe, which I have added to the Spanish and Lisbon letters, thinking that your Majesty wou'd wish to see it as soon as possible.

The Duke of Richmond has summon'd the House for to-morrow, to make a motion relative to the sailing of the Toulon fleet, and I suppose to inquire why the fleet is not sail'd from Portsmouth.

No. 2327—*Lord North to the King.*

[? 6 *May*, 1778.]

Sir—I have no doubt that your Majesty's presence will hasten the departure of Admiral Parker's fleet, but, (owing, I suppose, to my ignorance of the service,) I really expected that by this time the ships which compose it would be waiting for nothing but a fair wind. We have been violently attacked today in the Ho. of Commons on account of the fleet's not having sail'd, which hoping to create much clamour against us from all quarters, your Majesty's success in dispatching the Squadron will diffuse universal comfort in this place.

I have the honour to inclose to your Majesty the List of Speakers yesterday in a short debate upon the Contractors Bill which we threw out with great difficulty. Every hour convinces

me more and more of the necessity your Majesty is under of putting some other person than myself at the Head of your affairs. Your Majesty's service requires a man of great abilities, and who is confident of his abilities, who can chuse decisively, and carry his determinations authoritatively into execution. Such should be the character of your ruling minister and there should be one capable of forming wise plans, and of combining and connecting the whole force and operations of government. I am certainly not such a man; Your Majesty, perhaps, may ask, who is? Perhaps it may be difficult to find a person possessing all the requisite qualities of such a minister in their full extent, but there is not a single member of the present Cabinet, or of the Administration that was lately in contemplation or a single member of either House of Parliament of any clique of eminence that is not much more fit than I am. This is not a false modesty; my ancient indolence is much increased, as I have less hopes of struggling through the present difficulties of the State; my abilities are sensibly diminish'd, and my memory grievously impair'd. Add to this that I feel myself losing every day the good opinion and confidence of the Ho. of Commons. What I write to your Majesty is the result of serious and calm reflection. Arduous as our present situation is, I see many promising circumstances that in good hands would be turn'd greatly to the advantage of the Public. I know and feel that they will not, and can not prosper in mine. I have the honour of submitting myself, with the utmost veneration and respect. Sir, Your Majesty's most dutiful and devoted subject and servant, NORTH.

No. 2328—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 179.

LORD NORTH—The delay in the sailing of the Fleet has not been occasioned by any neglect, but the difference of Stores and provisions necessary for Channel and Foreign Service in the former only four months are given, in the latter a year is the usual proportion; but that no time may be lost, and as all the Naval Officers in the least consulted see the impossibility of victualling and refitting this Squadron abroad, Stores and

provisions are only ordered to make the former quantity up to Eight months, which is double of the proportion for Channel Service. Had yesterday proved a day fit to get these Additional Articles into the Ships, Parker would if the Wind had been fair have sailed this day; to-day has been still more boisterous and though in the two days the Vessels have attempted four times to carry these articles the sea was too rough for their lying along side of the Men of War. Commissioner Hood has just now assured me that if the Wind abates he will tomorrow in Eight Hours compleatly deliver to the Squadron all that has been ordered, and it will sail if the Wind is fair on Friday; it is very absurd in Gentlemen unacquainted with the immense detail of Naval Affairs, to trouble the House of Commons with matters totally foreign to truth; if I was now writing from my own ideas only, I should be as absurd as them; but Keppel, Pallisser, Parker and Hood are men whose knowledge in that science may be trusted. I do not mean to toutch on the rest of your letter, when I come to Town no other business shall employ my thoughts till I have fully digested what is best to be done; but you remember the last words you used were that you did not mean to resign.

I omitted one remark, Byron only left London yesterday morning, Parker will therefore reach Plymouth before the other is ready to sail.

PORTSMOUTH DOCK YARD,
May 6th 1778.

Duplicate copy in the King's handwriting.

No. 2329—*Lord North to the King.*

SIR—Mr. Thornton is arrived in Town and what I learn from him puts it out of doubt that Mr. D'Estaign's Squadron is gone to North America. He thinks that Mr. D'Estaign's orders are to make the first land on the Coast of America that he can, and attack the first ship he meets with that is acting against the Americans. He has put into my hands the two inclosed papers, one confirms his beliefs as to the destination of the Toulon Squadron, and the other shews that Spain at least keeps up the

same appearance in France that she does in her correspondence with us. He says that Spain now makes difficulties about furnishing the 3000 dollars which she had promised to pay to the Congress through the Havanna, and that Mr. de Vergennes is very uneasy under the apprehension that the Congress may refuse to ratify the treaty. Mr. Adams reports that the whole continent is extremely averse to any connexion with France, and blames the agents at Paris for not having kept their principals more constantly inform'd of the good disposition of the French court towards them. Mr. Thornton considers the Brest Fleet is nearly ready, and says that as soon as they hear of our fleet sailing, they declare that they will come out and fight it. He says that the ten frigates which sail'd lately from Brest are not gone to America, but are dispersed along the French Coast for the protection of their trade, and the annoyance of ours as soon as a war begins.

One of the Irish Bills was read in the Ho. of Commons yesterday for the second time after a long debate; the motion was carried by a majority of 126 to 77.

The Ministry were violently attacked yesterday upon the departure of Mr. D'Estaign's Squadron, and, indeed, the cry begins to rise so high against us that nothing can prevent the utmost confusion and distress, but a material change in the Ministry. I foretold this moment to your Majesty some time ago, and, indeed, the only blame that can fall upon your Majesty is that you have continued me so long in the Administration, notwithstanding your experience of my insufficiency, and my constant and earnest desire of retreat. But I am culpable, I am afraid, in a very great degree, in not having done what my own knowledge of my defects made it my duty to do. At present, my disgrace is, in a manner, certain, whether I continue in office or leave it. But it is of the utmost importance to prevent the ruin and disgrace of the Country, which must be the consequence of my remaining in the Cabinet, where I never could, nor can decide between different opinions; I have this instant, while I am writing, received the honour of your Majesty's commands; I certainly told your Majesty that I would not resign, but it was in confidence that your Majesty would speedily make an arrangement and dismiss me from your service. Indeed, indeed, Sir, it is too serious; my mind always weak, is now ten times weaker

than it was, and I have difficulties ten times greater to encounter than ever I had. If your Majesty does not allow me to retire, you and this country are ruin'd ; as to myself, I said before, that my disgrace is already compleat, nothing can put me in a worse situation than I am ; but your Majesty's affairs are by no means desperate, if they are put into good hands. Your Majesty and this nation may be extricated with honour out of our present difficulties. Let me die disgraced for that I can not now avoid, but let me not go to the grave with the guilt of having been the ruin of my King and Country.

I write this from a calm conviction of the truth of what I say, and of the necessity of attending to it. I never was less agitated in any important moment in my life, and I really deliver it as the best advice that I can offer to my Prince, to whom by allegiance, by duty, by gratitude and every tye I certainly owe the best counsel I can give.

I am glad to find that such dispatch is making for sending out the ships. The Wind has appear'd a little wavering this morning, and gives me hopes that it may change. If it continues long in the present quarter the consequences will be terrible. The long continuance of the East Wind before the fleet was ready or order'd to sail is the great charge brought against us ; the opposition argue that we lost an opportunity by that means which we never may be able to recover, but I hope that we may have a fair wind for the fleet to sail on Friday, and then there may be some hopes of coming tolerably well out of this business. I am amazed to hear that Admiral Byron is but just gone from London. Ld. Weymouth understood and told me that he had set out on Saturday morning.

I beg leave with the utmost humility to subscribe myself, Sir, Your Majesty's most faithful and dutiful subject and servant,

NORTH.

P.S. I have sent Lists of the French and Spanish navies and two letters from Mr. de Sartines and M. Vergennes to the Rebel Agents. N.

I must intreat your Majesty to shew the inclosed papers and Lists to Lord Sandwich. I am not able to copy them a second time. N.

DOWNING STREET,
Thursday, May 7th 1778, 1 *o'clock* P.M.

No. 2330—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 181.

Lord North—The person from whom you have got the intelligence of the destination of the French Fleet is in my opinion much the best of the many that have been employed. I am convinced of the propriety of sending Byron to North America, and that no unnecessary time may be lost, shall instantly send an Extract of that part of your letter, omitting the name to Lord Sandwich who lyes on board the Yacht in the Harbour, with directions that an express may be sent over land to Plymouth in my name to Byron to shew the necessity of his getting on Board the instant Rear Admiral Parker appears off of Plymouth, and a duplicate to be sent by Parker's Squadron, to whom I will in person say every thing that is strong to make him in my name enforce expedition; if Lord Sandwich sees no objection Capt. Robinson of the Guadaloupe shall be directed when Parker is under way to make the best haste he can to Plymouth to acquaint Byron of this event.

The Wind was very strong till five in the Evening when most fortunately it became quite serene, and a very clear moon has lasted all night which secures the provisions and Stores being early in the Morning on board all the Ships.

I sent Rear Admiral Parker word last night, I should in the Yacht at Eight this morning sail out of the harbour to see him weigh Anchor; this I am certain will redouble his ardour to sail as soon as it is possible; but my good Lord no mortal can withstand the Will of Divine Providence; from the hour I arrived here, not an instant has been lost to forward the sailing of this Fleet; I have wrote unto you what additions are necessary to be added to a Fleet fitted for Channel Service, when her destination is changed to Foreign Service; the continual Storm not any one other obstacle has prevented the effecting this.

As to the rest of your letter, I shall return on Saturday, and shall be ready on Sunday Evening to receive you at [any] hour which may suit you best, to hear all you have to say; which is far better than your holding that language after the Drawing Room that day.

I instantly send back your Messenger, and shall take one on

board the Yacht to dispatch unto you the moment Parker sails, that your mind may at least be at ease on that head.

PORTSMOUTH DOCK YARD,
May 8th 1778,
m/40 *pt.* 12 A.M.

Draft, and fair copy in the King's handwriting.

No. 2331—*Lord George Germain to the King.*

Lord George Germain has the honour of sending your Majesty Sir William Howe's dispatches, the Packet which he expects sail'd with the January Mail and contained nothing relative to his leave of returning to England. The Packet which sail'd the 16th of February and carry'd out his leave ought to arrive a few days after the Sandwich left the Delawar.

The Private Letters mention that the Desertion in Washington's army continues, and that they are sickly and in want of cloathing, and not above six thousand in Camp.

WHITEHALL,
May 8th 1778,
½ *pt.* 3 P.M.

No. 2332—*Commodore Hood to the King.*

SIRE—Turning in my thoughts the subject your Majesty did me the honour to speak to me upon, it occurs that the object of the Toulon Squadron may be your Majesty's Army under Sir Wm. Howe, which is the greater [*sic*] mischief, it can possibly do in America, it therefore seems to me most advisable that your Majesty's Squadron, under Admiral Byron, should steer directly for New York from whence it can proceed to the northward with greater facility and dispatch than it can from Halifax to the southward as a south west wind generally prevails on the coast of America, in the summer. I expressed myself to this effect to Lord Sandwich since your Majesty left the yard.

I am with the utmost gratitude and submission, Your Majesty's most dutifull servant SAM HOOD.

PORTSMOUTH DOCK YARD,
May 9th 1778.

No. 2333—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 183.

Lord North—I am arrived from Portsmouth about a quarter of an hour, and have the satisfaction of acquainting you that Rear Admiral Parker had every Store and Provision on board his Squadron before I left Spithead last night, and I had notice this morning that he would without fail pull down to St. Helens at twelve this day, where he will only be detained by the Wind ; I shall be ready to receive you at any hour tomorrow evening most convenient unto you.

Queens House,
May 9th 1778,
m/58 *pt.* 4 P.M.

No. 2334—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of inclosing some papers and warrants for his Majesty, and will attend his Majesty this evening at any hour he will please to appoint.

The substance of what he will have to offer to his Majesty tonight may be reduced to a few words.

The present situation of the country is arduous, but far from desperate. These troubles may end honourably, if his Majesty's affairs are well conducted. They can hardly be well conducted until there is a person in the Cabinet capable of leading, of discerning between opinions, of deciding quickly and confidently, and of connecting all the operations of government, that this nation may act uniformly and with force. Lord North is not such a man, and yet he holds the situation in which such abilities and qualities are at present expected. Lord North has for many years past felt his insufficiency and repeatedly requested his dismission. Much hurry and anxiety has greatly impair'd the little abilities he formerly had, and encreased the defects of his understanding. At the same time the difficulties of his situation are augmented so that he is now to struggle with greater difficulties, when his means of surmounting them are considerably diminished. Lord North's apprehensions for the public arise principally from

his just diffidence of himself, and it is not possible to expect much exertion from a man under the dominion of such sentiments.

Downing Street,
Sunday, May 10th 1778.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2335—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of informing his Majesty that the House of Commons, upon the motion of Mr. Barré, have voted unanimously an address for a public funeral, and a monument in Westminster Abbey for Lord Chatham.

Lord North can not help wishing that Lord Chatham had died in his Majesty's service, when this well-deserved testimony of the public gratitude was voted to him, but he begs leave to submit to his Majesty a proposition he made some time ago respecting his pension.

As his Majesty mentioned nothing last night of the subject of the note he had had the honour of sending in the morning, Lord North begs leave to submit to him that his strength, his spirits, and his capacity are so exhausted, that it will be impossible to keep him any longer in his present situation without the certain ruin of the country.

Downing Street,
May 11th.

No. 2336—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 184.

Lord North—I am rather surprised the House of Commons have unanimously voted an Address for a public Funeral and a Monument in Westminster Abbey for Lord Chatham ; but I trust it is worded as a testimony of gratitude for his rousing the Nation at the beginning of the last War, and his conduct whilst at that period he held the Seals of Secretary of State, or this compliment if payed to his general conduct, is rather an offensive measure to

me personally ; as to the adding a life to the pension I granted unto him for three lives, I very readily consent to that, and authorize Lord North without delay to take the necessary steps for effecting my intentions.

As this fresh toutching upon the wish to retire convinces me of Lord North's intention at all events to resign, I can only add that as soon as he has arranged the day of Mr. Thurlow's receiving the Great Seal, I will when I have that Office in such respectable hands, not lose an hour in consulting with the then Chancellor and with some of my principal Ministers now in the Cabinet how least to the detriment of public affairs to supply what I must ever look upon as so great a loss, the retreat of Lord North from the Treasury and the conduct of Public measures in the House of Commons ; Lord North will by this perceive the sooner he can notify unto me that the road is clear for my nominating a Chancellor, the sooner he will be freed from his present uneasy situation.

QUEENS HOUSE,
May 12*th* 1778.
m/5 *pt.* 8, A.M.

Draft, and fair copy in the King's handwriting.

No. 2337—*Lord Weymouth to the King.*

Observing that your Majesty's note is dated early this morning, I fear it may be by some mistake that I have but just now received it. Your Majesty's last letter to Lord North must bring the decision of the Great Seal to a point.

ARLINGTON STREET,
May 12*th* 1778,
m/20 *past six* P.M.

No. 2338—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of informing his Majesty that the Ho. of Commons have voted an address for a provision for Lord Chatham's family, and that after granting the money for the

African forts, they went into the second reading of the Irish Importation Bill, which was interrupted and postponed to Friday upon an intimation given to the House that a compromise was likely to take place between the friends and the opposers of the Irish Bills.

Downing Street,
Wednesday, May 13th,
½ *pt.* 7 P.M.

No. 2339—*Lord George Germain to the King.*

Lord George Germain has the honour of sending your Majesty a letter which he has received from Lt. General Burgoyne who arrived at Portsmouth this morning. He left Boston the beginning of April the Troops are still Prisoners and Major General Philips remains with them.

Your Majesty will be pleas'd to give the orders you shall think proper with regard to any enquiry that may be made into the conduct of Lieutenant General Burgoyne.

Pall Mall,
May 13th 1778,
m/25 *pt.* 9 P.M.

No. 2340—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

Lord Sandwich has the honour to forward to your Majesty the dispatches from Ld. Howe, brought by the Grampus Storeship in which General Burgoyne is arrived.

Lord Sandwich has not seen the Captain of the Grampus, but Mr. Stephens says he has told Mr. Knox that the rebel ships are all got to sea from Providence in Rhode Island, except the Columbus.

Admiralty,
May 13th 1778,
½ *past nine* P.M.

No. 2341—*Lord Amherst to the King.*

WHITEHALL,
Thursday morning,
20 *minutes after*
one o'clock.
[14 *May*, 1778.]

I have this moment received the honour of your Majesty's Note, with what it has pleased your Majesty to write to Lord George Germain, on his notification of the arrival of Lieutenant General Burgoyne : I will get the earliest and best information I can of what has been the custom and rule observed on a similar occasion, of the time of putting an officer under Arrest, and who should properly perform that duty, which I will have the honour of laying before your Majesty, when I may answer that Part, as well as of what Generals, the Board of Enquiry may consist of, with a greater certainty of what has been practised, than I can at this instant inform your Majesty of. AMHERST.

No. 2342—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 187.

LORD NORTH—Yesterday when Major Ackland was presented I told him I should wish to hear his account of the different scenes he had been engaged in since he quitted this Island before he goes into the Country, and he having said he should go in two or three days, I desire you will appoint him to come tomorrow morning at half hour past Eleven ; the zeal he has shewn made me think him deserving of this distinction, I find he is very sensible of it, by his having mentioned my intentions with pleasure.

QUEENS HOUSE,
May 14*th* 1778,
m/40 *pt.* 10 P.M.

No. 2343—*Lord Barrington to the King.*

CAVENDISH SQUARE,
16*th May* 1778.

In consequence of your Majesty's gracious permission I send herewith the Papers I had the honour to mention yesterday at

St. James's. I have no other Copy which I hope will plead my excuse for sending such a dirty One.

Finding that L. General Gage's destination as one of the intended Board was pretty generally known, I thought your Majesty would not have it understood that he was *changed*, so his name will be inserted in the Warrant with the others.

No. 2344—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 187.

QUEENS HOUSE,
May 17*th* 1778,
m/2 *pt.* 7 A.M.

LORD NORTH—Having just read the Papers transmitted by the late Sir John Clavering and Mr. Francis to Lord Weymouth on the daring step taken by Mr. Hastings to refuse resigning his employment of Governor General, and dismissing the late Sir John Clavering from his seat as first Counsellor and from the Command of the Troops of the Company, I cannot help renewing what I wrote a few days ago unto you that if the East India Company do not in the most decided manner remove Mess. Hastings and Barwell, the Dignity of Parliament and what is still more essential the Subversion of the Legal Acts of the Legislation is anihilated unless in the most decided manner this affair be taken up in Parliament, I should think by Address the Judges ought also to be removed; it is a daring event that requires great exertion to restore any energy in the Affairs of the Company, and as Lt. G. Coote is not yet sailed, He ought to be detained a few days to be acquainted with the decision that may be taken on this momentous affair.

No. 2345—*Lord George Germain to the King.*

Lord George Germain has the honour to acquaint your Majesty that at the meeting of your Majestys servants yesterday, it was thought proper to submit to your Majesty's consideration some alterations in Vice Admiral Byrons instructions, as the sea officers are of opinion that a Fleet may sooner go from New York to Hallifax than from Hallifax to N. York, and that upon the

whole it would be more adviseable the Admiral should first touch at Sandy Hook. If your Majesty approves of the enclosed Letter it shall be sent immediately to the Admiralty.

Pall Mall,
May 17*th* 1778,
m/33 *pt.* 9 A.M.

No. 2346—*Lord North to the King.*

Sire—I hope your Majesty will pardon me for suggesting that it would be very pleasing to Lord Suffolk, if your Majesty would immediately appoint a Chapter of the Garter for electing him and the other two Knights, who were to have been elected with Lord Holdernesse, if he had lived to see four vacancies in the order.

His death will also put it into your Majesty's power to effectuate the very gracious intentions you have been pleased to express with respect to me : On a thousand accounts, the Wardenship of the Cinque Ports has been always the favourite object of my ambition but, as I have made it a rule not to trouble your Majesty with solicitations for myself, I never mention'd it till your Majesty's goodness prevented my wishes by giving me hopes (most graciously and spontaneously) that I should succeed Lord Holdernesse ; If I have suggested to your Majesty my desire of holding that office in the same manner that it was held by him, it is from a thorough conviction, that, after the situation, which by your Majesty's kindness, I have held in this country, it would be a disgrace to me to have that office upon a less respectable footing than my immediate predecessor, or, indeed, to hold any favour from the Crown by a precarious and dependant tenure, your Majesty has raised me too high to make it now possible for me to hold the Wardenship of the Cinque-ports during pleasure. Sir Robert Walpole, Mr. Grenville, Ld. Northington, Ld. Harrington, Lord Holdernesse, Lord Rochford, in short, every person, who has received favours from the Crown after exercising Cabinet Offices, have held them either during their lives or for some other permanent term ; I am far from asserting that I have any claim from my services, which has not been satisfied already, or that settled rules and maxims of government ought to be broken on my account ; I only mean humbly to represent, what, in my

opinion, my honour requires of me ; If your Majesty can confer the favour you intend me in the only manner in which, I think, I can, with credit, accept it, you will add most essentially to the many and great instances of your goodness which I have already received. I have the honour to be, with the utmost veneration and respect, Sir, Your Majesty's most dutiful and devoted servant and subject NORTH.

BUSHY PARK,
Sunday Evening,
May 17, 1778.

No. 2347—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 193.

LORD NORTH—I have acquainted the Lords Suffolk and Weymouth that as soon as the former can attend on me, and is able to appear at a Chapter of the Garter, I shall conferr that badge of Honour on them and on Lord Rochford.

When I last Year acquainted you with my intentions of conferring the Office of Warden of the Cinque Ports upon you, I flattered myself this fresh mark of my regard would have stimulated you to continue at the head of the Treasury, and I intended therefore to have put it on the foot the late Duke of Dorset held it, but certainly never to have granted it for life ; the having been persuaded to answer a particular object, when quite ignorant of Public Affairs to grant that Office for life to Lord Holdernesse, is not a reason for my conferring it now in that mode. I daily find the evil of having put so many employments out of the power of the Crown, and for the rest of my life I will not conferr any in that mode, but where constant practice has made it matter of course.

The many marks I have given you of my friendship must convince you that when I decline conferring the Cinque Ports on you but during pleasure, that I will never give this office but in that mode ; if you still persist in retiring though I feel the detriment it will be to my Service, I will conferr the Cinque Ports during pleasure with an additional Salary to make it equal to the Sum received by Lord Holdernesse, it must be termed an

additional Salary, that the income may not be encreased whenever the Office shall be in other hands.

Sir Robert Walpole's Pension during life was natural, he had firmly for twenty Years withstood a strong Opposition, the Crown deserted him, and his enemies came into Office, no other mode therefore would have done; Mr. Grenville got the reversion of the Tellership before he came into the Treasury as a compensation for his resigning his pretensions to the Speaker's Chair; Lord Northington's pension for life was a shameful bargain of the idol of the House of Commons to get the Great Seal for Lord Camden.

I shall not object in addition to the Cinque Ports during pleasure to grant to your family a reversion of a Tellership of the Exchequer, but should much prefer your remaining at the head of the Treasury where many Opportunities will of course arise by which I may benefit your family without fixing a bad precedent.

I cannot conclude without expressing some surprise that after my numerous letters you have not concluded the Appointment of Mr. Thurlow, you want to retire, and yet will not take the first Step towards enabling me to arrange matters, that I may acquiesce in your request.

KEW,
May 19*th* 1778.

Draft, and fair copy in the King's handwriting.

No. 2348—*Lord North to the King.*

The Box which contain'd his Majestys letter having been mixed with the other boxes without any distinction, Lord North has but just had the honour of reading his Majesty's letter. As he is dressing to pay his duty to his Majesty, He hopes his Majesty will permit to speak to him upon the contents of it.

DOWNING STREET,
May 20 [1778].

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2349—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of informing his Majesty, that the House of Commons have been engaged all this day in hearing Mr. Burgoyne's defence, and Sir Guy Carleton's evidence. The Committee is adjourned to this day sevennight.

Thursday night,
May 20th [1778], *m*/47 *pt.* 10 P.M.

No. 2350—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 195.

KEW,
May 22nd 1778,
m/58 *pt.* 11 A.M.

LORD NORTH—If every Man would maturely consider what is most for his own credit, he would conduct himself as the Solicitor General does on the present Occasion ; I do not mean by this to take away any of his merit, but to point out that it is judicious, as well as very handsome, and must make a deep impression on my mind to his advantage ; I must desire that it be examined whether some mark of my approbation cannot be conferred on him on this occasion ; but I decidedly decline the arrangement proposed the other day of vacating the Chief Justice of the Common Pleas for the Speaker, whose adverse conduct cannot make me deem it either wise or expedient to place him in that Office, more particularly with a Peerage.

I authorize you to send this day for the Attorney General, when you will acquaint him that there remains no farther impediment to his instantly getting the Great Seal, and that I wish to see him tomorrow after the Drawing Room.

I shall certainly offer him a Security equal to the pension Lord Camden now holds to take effect whenever he quits the Great Seal ; I think this arising when I see him is more delicate, than its being granted on an application from him, or an offer in my name by you, previous to my talking to him ; but I will fairly tell you I shall try to avoid granting a reversion of a Tellership, as I am anxious to give that to your family whether you remain or not in your present situation.

I cannot fix the particular day for giving the Great Seal to

Mr. Thurlow untill after my conversation with him tomorrow, when I will notify the time by letter to the Chancellor, whose personal conduct to me deserves in return every mark of attention.

You shall on monday receive a letter from me fixing the exact time for this Appointment.

Draft, and fair copy in the King's handwriting.

No. 2351—*Lord North to the King.*

[23 *May*, 1778.]

Lord North has the honour of informing his Majesty that he has seen the Attorney General, and communicated to him his Majesty's commands. As the Attorney General did not appear very well satisfied while he was with Lord North, it is probable that he expected some proposal respecting the Pension and reversion from Lord North, of which no mention was made in consequence of his Majesty's pleasure signified in his letter of this morning. Lord North intreats his Majesty not to have the least difficulty of engaging the Tellership of the Exchequer on his account, for though the distant reversion of so valuable an office must be itself of considerable value, it is more suited, perhaps, to the circumstances of a person possess'd of a floating pension, and without a numerous family than to another who has many younger children; It may open a distant prospect of a large income to one younger son, and, perhaps, by that means encourage him in idleness and expence, but it does not afford an opportunity of securing reasonable and competent provisions for the rest of his young family. But if it were so circumstanced as to be peculiarly adapted to the situation of Lord North and his family, Lord North would be very uneasy if he thought that a great and useful measure of government were impeded from any attention to his interest; In return to his Majesty's gracious declaration that he would grant him the Tellership of the Exchequer whether he remain'd in office or no, Lord North thinks it his duty to repeat, that though his earnest wish certainly is to retire, yet he is ready to continue in his present office, as long as his Majesty deems it for his service that he should continue there.

Lord North incloses a List of the Brest Fleet, lately received

from Mr. Forth. The Duke of Chartres was at Paris the 14 of May, but was then going to set out for Brest. They talk'd of coming out of the harbour of Brest in order to fight Admiral Keppel.

Downing Street.

Endorsed by the King, May 23rd, 1778.

No. 2352—*Lord Barrington to the King.*

Cavendish Square,
23*rd May* 1778.

I have just received from the Judge Advocate, the Paper herewith inclosed; which I have thought it my Duty to send to your Majesty, as I apprehend you will not be at St. James's before Wednesday. I have sent a Copy to Lord Suffolk, from whom I received your Majesty's commands for the constituting a Board of Enquiry into the Causes of failure of the expedition under L. General Burgoyne. Barrington.

No. 2353—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of informing his Majesty that he had last night a conference with the Solicitor General and finds him very well disposed to accomodate his Majesty's affairs in any manner that may be thought honourable with respect to himself. Lord North must do him the justice to say that he never saw any man more willing to sacrifice his own private interest and views to the Public service although he was well acquainted with the inclination his Majesty had shewn to gratify him, of which, indeed, Lord North thought it right to inform him fully. The Solicitor appear'd the more ready to concede any difficult points, when he had heard from Lord North that he might have them if he pleased. Nothing was absolutely settled, but the Solicitor left Lord North in very good humour, and Lord North proposes, with his Majesty's permission, to send immediately to Mr. Thurlow. Lord North intreats to know his Majesty's pleasure when Mr. Thurlow should kiss his Majesty's hand, and, what offers his Majesty will authorize him to make with respect to

pension, or reversion if Mr. Thurlow should enter into any conversation upon those subjects.

Lord North feels with the greatest gratitude the offer his Majesty made to him last year of a Reversion in the Exchequer, but he desires that upon this occasion, and upon every other, his interest may not stand in the way of his Majesty's or the public service.

Downing Street,
Saturday morning,
May 23rd [1778], ½ *pt.* 9 P.M.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2354—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 196.

Kew,
May 24th 1778.

Lord North—Agreable to your recommendation I have acquainted the Attorney General that when I shall put the Great Seal into his hands, I mean to accompany it with the Reversion of a Tellership of the Exchequer, and a similar floating Pension to that held by Lord Camden, to take place whenever he quits the Great Seal, untill he shall be in possession of the Tellership; he seemed very sensible of my Attention in proposing it myself unto him; I did not chuse to fix any day for his receiving the Seal, as you this day again renewed a wish to be dispensed from holding your present Employment, if I can make any proper arrangement; I will therefore now fully examine whether it be possible to effect any plan that may carry with it a proper appearance, always relying that if I cannot fix on any mode that I can think of advantage to the Public, you will in that case consent to continue in your present Employment.

I have just received your account of the news from Paris which has an appearance of truth.

Draft, and fair copy in the King's handwriting.

No. 2355—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of informing his Majesty that Lord Barrington has been with him this morning to desire a Steward-

ship that his seat in Parliament may be vacated, and hopes that his Warrant may be sign'd on Wednesday ; Lord North imagines that the Ho. of Commons will not adjourn till Thursday, but will take care to have the Warrant ready either on Wednesday or Thursday as he understands that Lord Barrington has obtain'd his Majesty's consent to his request. During the recess there may, perhaps, be no occasion to appoint a new Secretary at War, but Lord North apprehends that before the next Session of Parliament it will be necessary to make a new arrangement for Lord Barrington, whose long, faithful, and able services will certainly meet with due attention from his Majesty.

Lord North apprehends that his Majesty mistook the intention of what Lord North took the liberty of saying yesterday in the Closet ; He did, by no means, intend to renew his desire of retiring from his present situation ; What he meant was to express, in the strongest and most explicit terms, his readiness to remain untill his Majesty shall have form'd such an arrangement as he can approve of ; Lord North hopes he is mistaken, but he thought, with great uneasiness, that he perceived some mistrust, in his Majesty, with respect to him, and he wish'd, if his Majesty had harbour'd any suspicions to his disadvantage, to remove them from his Majesty's breast by the most explicit declarations. Lord North can safely appeal to his Majesty that he has upon all occasions, made it the rule of his conduct to sacrifice his own private interest and inclination to his Majesty's service, and would be much distress'd, if his Majesty could now conceive him capable of acting upon other principles. Lord North hopes therefore, that his Majesty will forgive this trouble, That he will impute it to the feelings of a man, who wishes, above all things, to stand well in his Majesty's good opinion, and that he will continue to rely upon Lord North's attachment, of which he flatters himself no action of his life can have given his Majesty the least reason to doubt.

Downing Street,
May 25 [1778],
m/20 *pt.* 12 P.M.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2356—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 197.

Lord North—It used to be the usual consequence of Foreign Wars to make Opposition avoid distressing Government from at least a desire of appearing to prefer the Nation's interest to its private one ; but this as well as public zeal seem equally destroyed in this selfish and unprincipled Age ; I am pleased the Majority of the House of Commons have rejected such improper Motions, which could not be expected to be greater at a Season when so many Members are absent.

Kew,
May 25th 1778,
m/19 *pt.* 11 P.M.

No. 2357—*Lord Weymouth to the King.*

Arlington Street,
May 25th 1778.

Your Majesty shall certainly be attended tomorrow at the hour you command.

No. 2358—*Lord North to the King.*

[26 *May*, 1778.]

Sir—I have the honour of inclosing to your Majesty a very important letter of intelligence which Mr. Wentworth has just received from Dr. Bancroft, and sent to Mr. Robinson

Your Majesty will, I hope, forgive the additional trouble which I am induced to give you from the apprehension of having fallen under your Majesty's displeasure ; Conscious as I feel myself of the most unfeigned and zealous attachment to your Majesty, I am at a loss to know from what cause it has arisen, and I wish to know it only that it may be in my power to remove it. It may, perhaps, have its rise in my frequent and earnest applications for leave to retire. As God is my judge, those requests were only grounded in a just sense of my own unfitness for my situation in very difficult times, but I will, if your Majesty commands it,

remain till your Majesty shall have made an arrangement perfectly to your mind. It may, perhaps, arise from my wish to hold the Wardenship of the Cinque Ports as it was held by the Duke of Dorset and Lord Holdernesse, I own, that, at first, I felt mortified and humiliated at the idea that I was to be put upon a less respectable footing than they were, but, if your Majesty should continue me in your service I will certainly accept, with much gratitude, the office in any manner that your Majesty pleases to bestow it upon me. If I should be removed from office, I most willingly submit to your royal consideration (which has so long been friendly towards me) whether, after the high rank which, by your Majesty's goodness I have held, I could, with credit, hold a precarious favour of this sort, and whether I could, in that case, give to government that support which, at all events, I mean to give, without being liable to interpretations which would dishonour me: All this I beg leave to submit to your Majesty, intreating your Majesty to believe that my motive is not to press your Majesty for further marks of your kindness, but to remove a prejudice from your mind which, while it remains, must give me the greatest uneasiness. Dispose of me, Sir, as you will; In or out of office, honour'd or no by further instances of your Majesty's favour, I shall always persist in my duty and attachment to your Majesty, and I hope that I shall be restored to your Majesty's good opinion and confidence.

Undated and unsigned; possibly incomplete.

No. 2359—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 197.

Kew,
May 26th 1778.

Lord North—You cannot be surprised that the degree to which you have pressed to resign during the space of the last three months, has given me much uneasiness, but it never made me harbour any thought to the disadvantage of your worth. Now you are allarmed least you have offended me, when there is not the least reason for it; as you have declared a resolution of continuing if I cannot make an arrangement to my satisfaction,

this declaration of yours has thoroughly satisfied me, and I trust to be in a few days able to decide whether I can make a proper arrangement, or whether agreable to your present request I shall think it best to continue you in your present office, in either case you shall by deeds not words see that I have a real regard for you.

Mr. Wentworth's intelligence if confirmed by other quarters will require the former orders to be given to Vice Admiral Byron, but it is not authentic enough to take any step whilst unsupported by corroborating circumstances.

Draft, and fair copy in the King's handwriting.

No. 2360—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of informing his Majesty, that a motion to enter again into the enquiry concerning the expedition under General Burgoyne was after a long debate rejected by a great majority.

Nos	144
Ays	95

Lord North has received the honour of his Majesty's very obliging note, and feels the utmost thankfulness for his goodness. He is a little indisposed tonight but hopes to be able to pay his duty to his Majesty tomorrow at St. James's.

Downing Street,
12 *o'clock* P.M.
May 27 [1778].

Enclosure.

Speakers 26th May 1778
On Mr. Vyners Motion for a Committee to take into Consideration the State of the Army under the Convention at Saratoga

	Agt. the Questions
Mr. Vyner—moved.	Lord Nugent.
Mr. Wilkes—seconded.	Mr. Cornwall.

Agt. the Questions

Sir Wm. Meredith agt. some expressions of Mr. Wilkes's reflectg. on Mr. Burgoyne as an Ignominious.
Mr. Fox—moved amendment to extend the Committee to consider the Transactions of the Northern Army and renew the Inquiry in general.
Mr. Powis.
General Burgoyne.
Mr. Fox.
Mr. Dunning.
Lord George Gordon.
Mr. Burke.
Mr. Turner.
Lord George Germain.
Mr. Attorney General.

The House divided: Ayes 95.
Noes 144.

The Main Question then put:

Mr. Wilkes—agt. withdrawing it.
Mr. Temple Lutterell made a violent attack on Ld. George Germain and personal to him.
Mr. Fox to support Mr. Lutterell.
Mr. Vyner moved to withdraw it.
Mr. Buller, Junior.
Lord George Germain answd. him warmly and with great spirit.
Lord North.

On this the Chair interfered, much confusion arose many Members were up, together, and a Conversation continued for a considerable time; The Gentl. were called upon to give their Honour that nothing fur. shd. pass upon it, Ld. George complied upon the orders of the House, Mr. Lutterell was obstinate for a long time and until a resolution was offered for his being taken into the Custody of the Sergt. at Arms, but at last complied and then the Main Question was disposed of.

No. 2361—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of informing his Majesty that Mr. Hartley's Motion for an address to his Majesty not to prorogue the Parliament has been rejected today by a great Majority after a long debate.

Ays 53
Nos 105.

Lord North was prevented from paying his respects to his Majesty today, but hopes to have that honour tomorrow when he will endeavour to express his gratitude to his Majesty for the very gracious expressions he used yesterday to Lord North, and for his kind assurances that he would endeavour to make a new arrangement, which as Lord North thinks, will every day become more beneficial to his Majesty's affairs, as he feels himself daily less able to bear the fatigues of his present situation.

Downing Street,
Thursday, May 28th [1778],
m/50 *pt.* 11 P.M.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2362

House of Commons
28th May 1778

Speakers on Mr. Hartley's Motion for an Address to His Majesty not to prorogue Parliament

For	*Agt.*
Mr. Hartley—moved.	Mr. Rigby.
Mr. Burgoyne—seconded.	Mr. Solicitor General.
Mr. Thos. Townshend.	
Mr. Fox.	

Sir H. Houghton on the doubts stated by the Sol. General of Mr. Burgoyne's right at present to sit in the House and to move

a Question to decide this. This matter being explained the original Debate was revived and continued.

Mr. Burke.	Lord North.
Mr. Turner.	Genl. Fraser, to explain a Fact in respect to a supposed difference of opinion betwn. Gen. Burgoyne and General Fraser as to crossing Hudson's river.
Mr. W. Hartley.	

The House divided: Ayes 53
Noes 105.

No. 2363.—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne. II. 198.

Lord North—It appears rather particular that Mr. Burgoyne should wish to take a lead in Opposition at a Season when his own situation seems to be far from either pleasant or creditable. I am sorry you have been so long detained by a question which deserved the fate it has met with.

Kew, *May 29th* 1778,
m/20 *pt.* 6 A.M.

Draft and fair copy in the King's handwriting.

No. 2364—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North was so extremely fatigued last night by the heat of the weather and the debate in the Ho. of Commons, that he forgot to mention to his Majesty that he heard from a friend of Mr. Wedderburne's yesterday that the latter gentleman would not object to be Master of the Rolls, if an opening could be made for him in that office, but that Mr. Wedderburne would make no proposal from himself but would wait till he heard from Lord North as he expected.

If his Majesty can conclude a ministerial arrangement to his satisfaction, Lord North hopes that his Majesty permitt him to

recommend to his notice Mr. Robinson, whose able, diligent, and faithful services are not unknown to his Majesty, and Mr. Keene who lost a good place a year ago by a mistake.

Lord North has resumed this subject merely out of justice to those two gentlemen, which he would not have done on his own account, being determined to go or to remain, as his Majesty shall command, of whose late kindness towards him he feels the deepest impressions.

DOWNING STREET,
Friday morning, May 29th [1778],
m/55 *pt.* 8 A.M.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2365—*Mr. Wedderburne to Earl of Suffolk.*

[Copy, in the King's handwriting.]

MY DEAR LORD—Mr. Stuart came to me yesterday from Lord North who had desired Him to find out whether I chose to be Master of the Rolls, or whether I would accept the Reversion of Mr. Mackenzie's Office with that of Attorney General. He told Mr. Stuart that having heard that I had expressed a value for the Rolls on several occasions and understanding that such an arrangement would be very well received in Westminster Hall, He had that morning mentioned it to the King, who had authorized Him to take his measures for it, but that before commencing a second Negociation He should know whether it would be acceptable to me ; that for his own part he wished most earnestly that I would prefer the other object because there was nothing He would not do to secure my Support (as he called it) in the Office of Attorney General.

I desired Mr. Stuart to return from me this answer, that I had too recent an experience of the imprudence of discovering any wish about a Place not yet at his disposal, to give any other answer to the first part of the Proposition ; and as to the second I had only to remind Lord North that he had made me the same offer last November, and that I then stated to him the reasons why it would neither be for the King's Service, for Lord North's ease, nor for my own to do a thing that must be very disagreable

to a family that had a right to my gratitude and respect. I did not desire him to add though I felt the truth of it that after all that had past I should find it no easy matter to reconcile my mind to the connection which Lord North seemed to desire, which I know if formed could not subsist long, nor ever subsist upon terms of mutual confidence.

When there was a prospect of a vacancy in the first Legal Office your Lordship will bear me testimony that Ambition and Interest were not the prevailing considerations in my Breast when you informed me of the King's gracious intentions towards me, I felt no sentiments but of duty and respect, and no further wish but to observe the situation His Majesty's goodness had destined me for. A retreat to a Judicial Office with a Seat in the House of Lords became a preferable Object to me, as soon as I understood it was the King's pleasure that it should be so. Lord North in the conduct of the business has raised difficulties that embarrass him, and he wishes me to sacrifice to his accomodation, all the quiet and honour intended for me. Your Lordship will not be surprised that I feel no disposition to make such a sacrifice for such a purpose. He first proposes to me as an inducement an exchange with Sir Fletcher Norton, and I refused to participate in the disgrace which would attend such an arrangement; at the distance of a week, He proposes a reversion that I had formerly declined, and he states a negociation yet to be commenced about another judicial office, fitter perhaps for me in some respects than the Common Pleas, but of less value, of much more labour, and stripped of that value, which the general Estimation affixes to a Peerage. The more anxiety he professes to serve me the less He offers, and He proves to me at the same time that those who treat him ill and chuse to drive a bargain may obtain much better conditions from his difficulties than from his friendship.

The circumstance which gives me me most pain is his having said that his last proposal had a much higher sanction and I fear that my sentiments and conduct have not had the good fortune to be set in the most favourable light. I must therefore entreat your Lordship to do me the justice to state them as you think they deserve, and to throw me at His Majesty's feet with the most respectfull acknowledgements for His goodness to me. If the favour most graciously intended hath been made inconvenient

for the real and essential interests of His Government, I have no hesitation to make any sacrifice that my Duty requires, for the circumstance which gave the greatest value to the object in my eyes, was the consciousness that it flowed entirely from His Majesty's great goodness. It will be I confess some mortification to me to be deprived of an Honour thus intended, a more sensible one still if my situation is to be subservient to the accomodation of those who have created the difficulty. But my Duty and Zeal are superior to all personal consideration. If the interest of Government does not permit me to be distinguished by any Honour, I have a perfect reliance on His Majesty's Goodness that He will not suffer me to be lessened in the public estimation by any other arrangement, the only difficult commission that I could receive would be to revive that confidence which in spite of all my endeavours has been extinguished between Lord North and Me ; but whatever situation can best enable me to express my zeal and respect to His Majesty will become to me the most eligible.

I ever am My Dear Lord Your most faithfull and obedient Humble Servant

(Signed) AL. WEDDERBURNE.

Saturday, 30th May 1778.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2366—*Lord Weymouth to the King.*

ARLINGTON STREET,
June 1st 1778.
2 o'clock P.M.

By another conversation which I have had, I find the business in which Your Majesty did me the honour to employ me, as little likely to succeed as when I had the honor of reporting to Your Majesty yesterday, as it must now be look'd upon as at an end, there seems to be no measure so proper as that which Your Majesty proposed yesterday in regard to Lord North.

I have been this morning with the Bishop of Salisbury, but can get no information from him concerning the Statute and am much at a loss to know where to apply for any.

The Attorney General has been with me who is rather inclined

to take the Title of Yarmouth if Your Majesty shall have no objection, and a Warrant is sent in this Box for that purpose, but if Your Majesty shall have the smallest wish that he shou'd not have that title, he is very ready to return to his former choice and another Warrant shall be immediately prepared.

The two letters from the Duke of Richmond were received last night, I went directly to Lord Amherst who informed me of what had been done the night before in consequence of Mr. Goring's account, and immediately acquainted the Duke of Richmond with it by the inclosed draught sent by a Messenger.

No. 2367—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of transmitting to His Majesty the letters which have been received by Mr. Robinson from Philadelphia.

Lord North has had a conversation this evening with General Frazer from whose language he is led to conceive that if Mr. Wedderburn had a grant of the Chancellor of the Dutchy of Lancaster for life as Mr. Lechmere formerly had it, He would continue Attorney General, and Mr. Frazer conceives that he would prefer this arrangement to the Mastership of the Rolls. This arrangement is the cheapest of any yet proposed and in many respects preferable to the rest, but the difficulty will lie in accomadating [*sic*] and satisfying Lord Clarendon. It will be very convenient to settle with Mr. Wedderburn tomorrow, as he may, perhaps, insist upon his promise of the Chief Justice's place and the peerage if the Attorney General has the seals before some other proposal has been made to him. At the same time, it will not be easy to get over the difficulties of this new plan in so short a time, especially as Mr. Temple Luttrell threatened the H^e^ of Commons with a long day tomorrow.

DOWNING STREET,
June 1st, 1778.
$\frac{m}{55}$ *pt* 11 P.M.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2368—*Lord Weymouth to the King.*

June 2nd 1778.

Some doubts have been suggested to the Attorney General whether in all events the Title of Yarmouth may be extinct, and as he has no great wish for that Title in preference to his own name, he has desired that I would submitt to Your Majesty whether you would have any objection to cancelling the Warrant of yesterday and signing the new one annex'd. I am much concern'd that Your Majesty shou'd have so much trouble on this business but the Attorney is very solicitous that it may be quite clear of all doubt.

No. 2369—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 199.

KEW,
June 2nd, 1778.
$\frac{m}{52}$ p^t 7 P.M.

LORD NORTH—In consequence of Your repeated Solicitations to quit Your present Employment I have seriously attempted to release You; but am convinced still more than at any other period how detrimental it would be to the Public as well as to me whose interests can never be seperated if I consented to it at present; indeed Your language for the last ten days is the more encouraging, as it manifestly has tended to Shew a desire in You to continue; I therefore trust that the same attachment that prompts You not to put me under difficulties, will also prevent Your being swayed by the unfortunate events which at the beginning of the War may naturally be expected to arise in Some of the Wide possessions of this Great Empire, to take the same idea of retiring perhaps at an hour still more inconvenient if possible than the present, I also trust the Summer's repose will enable You to rouse Your mind with Vigour to take the lead again in the House of Commons, and not let every absurd idea be adopted as has too recently appeared.

I know you complain the House does not attend to Your wishes, but Your own candour must also convince You that it is

impossible Your ideas can be followed, whilst You have not Yourself decided the path You mean to take ; the moment You will decide, the love and esteem most of the House have for You, will appear conspicuously, and a little attention on Your part to the most efficient Men will restore due order.

I cannot help touching on another delicate point, but at this hour it would neither be right to myself nor friendly towards You, to conceal a single idea, the greatest part of Your difficulties arise from entering too far with others in plans of business but particularly arrangements of Employments, without fairly stating Your sentiments unto Me ; if on the contrary You sounded my opinion first You would save much trouble and vexation to both of us, and where can you repose Your undigested thoughts more safely than in the breast of one who has ever treated You more as his friend than Minister, and who would perhaps frequently put You on Your guard against things which if consented to from Your being hampered disgrace my service, or if refused distress Your mind.

I have kept the packets from Sir Wm. Howe not to delay any longer Your Messenger ; You will order the proper Appointment to be prepared appointing You, during pleasure, Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports with the salary of £4000 per Annum, and will authorize Lieut-General Frazer to arrange the Dutchy of Lancaster with Mr. Wedderburn on his accepting the Office of Attorney General ; I do not see any Difficultys in satisfying Lord Clarendon, whose private character is so much better than that of Lord Despencer, who on this occasion must yield to settle this arrangement.

I find the Attorney General takes the title of Yarmouth which being a Norfolk Man I had expected ; I have directed his attendance after I come from the House tomorrow to receive the Great Seal, and have already signed the Warrant for his Peerage that he may vacat his Seat before the Prorogation.

Draft and fair copy in the King's handwriting.

No. 2370—*Lord North to the King.*

Sir—Your Majesty's letter, gracious as it was, gave me, I confess, the greatest uneasiness, but I beg leave to return Your

Majesty my most grateful acknowledgements for the attempts you have made to relieve me from my present most arduous, most irksome, and most embarassing situation ; Your Majesty does me, I am sure, the justice to believe that I should bear it more chearfully, if I could think my continuance in Office so necessary to the Public Welfare as it appears to Your Majesty : I will endeavour to go on, because it is your Majesty's pleasure, and because I understand from Your Majesty that you can not without distressing yourself, form another Ministry at this moment. But your Majesty has entirely misunderstood me, if you have conceived that I have, for a single instant, entertain'd a desire of continuing in my present office ; Out of a sense of duty and attachment, I declared myself willing to serve till Your Majesty should have made an arrangement to your satisfaction, but I never more earnestly wish'd to retire than at the very moment, in which I made that declaration ; For the future I will do as well as I can, but I can not promise that my faculties of body or mind will enable me to go through the business of another Session of Parliament.

What account those gentlemen, who profess themselves the friends of government & hold the best preferments under it, may give of their conduct in Parliament, I know not ; All that I request of them is, that they will either support me, or say, whom they will support ; I do not desire their assistance an hour longer than they choose to give it me, and am willing to allow that, if they complain of me, it is a reason for my removal ; but I assert as a fact, that, for the greatest part of the Session of Parliament, I have done the business of Government unsupported and alone ; I have shewn them by all my actions, that I will sacrifice my love of retirement to the quiet of Your Majesty's government, But if they do not think they can venture to support me till I am fond of my Office, it is probable that I shall never have their assistance at all. To say the truth, I do not expect more cordiality on their part in the course of the next Session than I have experienced in the last, & as for my personal defects, they will, probably, grow upon me, & render me every day less and less fit for my employment ; If my conduct in Parliament has been faulty, as Your Majesty seems to think it has, it is to be attributed to error of judgement, which at my time of day I am afraid, is not likely to mend. This much I thought it necessary to lay before Your

Majesty that I may be thoroughly understood. My duty, attachment, & gratitude towards Your Majesty will not permit me to leave Your Majesty's service, till Your Majesty can make another arrangement which you can approve, but, least Your Majesty should conceive that I am better pleased with my situation than I was, I beg leave humbly to represent to Your Majesty, that my wish to retire has been uniform, and is now as strong as ever; That I do, by no means, think myself qualified to be the Principal Director of Your Majesty's affairs at the present crisis, and that it is far from impossible, that I may sink under the burthen of public business, at the most critical moment.

The liberal offer of a large salary with the Wardenship of the cinque ports deserves my warmest acknowledgements, especially, as I am confident that Your Majesty does not think so ill of me as to suppose that the difficulty I made respecting this office arose from any proposed diminution of salary. The mortification which I felt at the first proposal of holding this Office upon a worse footing than the Duke of Dorset and Lord Holdernesse proceeded entirely from the difference of the tenure and not of the intended salary. I felt humiliated because I thought that the alteration of the terms from a holding during life to one during pleasure would have the appearance to the world as if I were not to be trusted so much as those who went before me, and would, therefore, be neither for your Majesty's service nor my honour. But though the World will perhaps be still of the same opinion, I am happy in thinking that I have not forfeited your Majesty's confidence, and gratefully submit to your Majesty's pleasure; Having with deference ventured to explain to your Majesty, why I can not, in case your Majesty should permit me to retire from your service, continue to hold this or any other favour of the Crown during pleasure. As to the Salary, I should never have expected £4,000 p am. during my continuance in office, even now, I am afraid that it will be thought too great an addition to the income of the Chancellor of the Exchequer; At least, it may be fittest [?] for me to delay the accepting it till I know whether a considerable part of it may not be better applied to the accomadation of Lord Clarendon or Lord Le Dispenser, and the forming an arrangement for Mr. Wedderburn without bringing any new burthen upon the Civil List.

I beg a thousand pardons for detaining your Majesty so long

by this tedious letter, but it seems to me important that your Majesty should be undeceived as to my sentiments and wishes, and that you should know that, when I continue in a most painful situation, I am not actuated by any new inclination to my Office, or hope of pecuniary emoluments, but that I am prompted solely by my obedience to your Majesty's commands, by my attachment to your Majesty's person and Government, and by the gratitude I feel for many instances I have received of Your Majesty's kindness.

I have the honour to be, with the utmost respect and veneration, Sir, Your Majesty's most dutiful and devoted servant and subject NORTH.

June 2^{d}

$\frac{m}{25}$ p^{t} 9 P.M.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2371—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 201.

Lord North, Ought certainly to acquaint Mr. Wallace that He is to vacat his Seat this Day on being appointed Sollicitor General, and also Mr. Wedderburn on being Attorney General. Lord Clarendon must be provided for and that by an Office he being much more respectable than Some who may make way for Him.

KEW, *June* 3^{d} 1778.

$\frac{m}{43}$ p^{t} 11 A.M.

No. 2372—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of informing his Majesty that the Election for Banbury is fixed for Tuesday, and of demanding His Majesty's permission to absent himself for a few days in order to attend it. He proposes to set out about noon tomorrow and hopes to be at Banbury again on Wednesday night, and to go to London on Thursday morning.

Lord North imagines that Lord George Germain has already acquainted his Majesty with the news of the arrival of the Porcupine in the Delaware at the beginning of last month. Though no information of this event has come to government officially, the intelligence is so exact, that there is no reason to doubt it.

Lord North has seen the Attorney General this morning who seems a good deal hurt at what has lately pass'd, and to think that Lord North has neglected him : He appears also not to have understood Lord North's letters, and to fear that his letter has been misunderstood ; He hopes that he is not considered as having wav'd any claims that he might have conceived, in the course of the Year, to have belong'd to him, and desires to be understood to have offer'd his services as Attorney General for the present moment because he thought that his refusal would in this crisis have distress'd His Majesty's affairs, but he does not conceive himself to have desisted from his pretensions in the least degree, but that he still is intitled to the promise made to him ; whenever he shall call for the performance of it. He appears to Lord North to feel too deeply the distance which the late preferments have placed between him and Lord Thurlow, but he will go to Court on Wednesday to kiss his Majesty's hand ; If his Majesty would take that opportunity of talking to him graciously and cordially, and in a manner to convey the satisfaction his Majesty has felt at his late conduct, It will go a great way to comfort his mind, and to make him undertake his new office with chearfulness. The Attorney General is not much sway'd by interest but he is very sensible to attention and confidence.

Lord North is very sorry to give his Majesty any more trouble about the Wardenship of the Cinque Ports, but Mr. Robinson tells him that the Warrant has been improperly drawn at the Secretary's Office, and has directed another Warrant. The mistake consists in this, that the Warrant mentions no salary whereas the old grants always contain'd an allowance of £1500 p^{r} annum : This will produce between £900 and 1000 a year nett, and will, after the first year, overpay the expences attending the Office. Lord North has permitted another Warrant to be prepared, because Mr. Robinson assured him that there was a mistake in drawing the former Warrant, but begs leave to mention that he is ready to accept the Office without any salary if it should

appear in any respect convenient or useful that the Office should be put upon that footing.

Lord North begs leave to inclose a letter he has lately received from Colonel Dalrymple, and to recommend it with all deference to his Majesty's notice. He begs leave at the same time to remind his Majesty that Colonel Dalrymple having had hopes given him of a further payment to reimburse him for his expences in the expedition against the Charibbs will, in all probability, desist from his claim upon obtaining the promotion he solicits.

Bushy Park,
June 7th, 1778.

No. 2373—*Mr. Robinson to the King.*

Mr. Robinson humbly begs leave to acknowledge to His Majesty the high sense he feels of His Majesty's most condescending and most gracious Mark of Confidence towards him, to return the Letter communicated, and to be permitted to assure His Majesty, that it shall be his most constant and unremitted Study and Attention to have the Line of Conduct laid down by His Majesty steadily pursued, which Mr. Robinson is convinced must produce the best Effects, and be attended with the most happy consequences.

Syon Hill
7th June, 1778.
1° P.M.

No. 2374—*The King to Lord North.*

Lord North—I flatter myself Your journey to Banbury and stay whilst there will be as little unpleasant as such an expedition can prove. I had no notice of the arrival of the Porcupine in the Delaware the beginning of last month but by Your letter the last Evening.

I am sorry to find the Attorney General rather retracts. I feel the propriety of keeping him in his present situation and if any kindness from me on Wednesday can effect it, You may rest assured he shall be got into thorough good temper.

I shall certainly most readily Sign a fresh Warrant for the Appointment of Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, I should most readily have fixed the Salary at 4000.£ but as You chose it should not exceed 1500£, I certainly meant that to have been properly stated, therefore this is only fulfilling my intentions, which by some mistake in the Secretary of State's Office had been neglected.

I shall consider whether I can gratify Colonel Dalrymple, there are some Regimental Objections unto it.

KEW,
June 8th, 1778.
$\frac{m}{50}$ p^t 6 P.M.

No. 2375—*Mr. Wedderburn to the Earl of Suffolk.*

LINCOLN'S INN FIELDS,
8th June 1778

MY DEAR LORD—After the fullest consideration of the Question You proposed to me, I have no doubt what ought to be My Answer. It cannot be for H.M. service to add to My Office a place for Life. The example would at all times be pernicious and in times like the present It is most requisite that the Servants of Government should not appear to act from any Motive, but a sense of Duty. There is no place I should prefer to the one proposed and no circumstances so highly flattering as the manner in which it would be bestowed; but I am bound to sacrifice to a superior consideration not only the satisfaction of enjoying so secure a situation, but the pride of receiving a favour so conferred.

The Offer Lord North made me, I had no hesitation to decline, I have had much struggle with myself upon the question You put to me, had I answered it either way without balancing I should probably have repented; but the opinion I entertain is formed upon Principles that I am sure Your Lordship will approve, and that in any fortune I shall never repent my adhering to them.

I ever am My Dear Lord Your most faithfull and most obedient Humble Servant (Signed) AL: WEDDERBURN.

Copy, in the King's handwriting.

No. 2376—*Commodore Hood to Lord North.*

PORTSMOUTH DOCKYARD,
June 8th 1778.

MY LORD—From the strongest conviction, that it cannot be the King's wish or desire, that any officer should expend his own money in the Service of His Majesty's Government, I take the liberty of again addressing your Lordship, which I have for a long time declined doing, from an unwillingness of being troublesome, and from the well grounded hope, your Lordship would have lent a favourable ear, to Sir Wm Gordon's Application, & state of my case.

I think my Lord, I may without the imputation of vanity say, that as an *officer* I stand fair & have good pretensions, and I trust your Lordship is convinced, that I have *repeatedly*, not only shewn my readiness but my zeal, to promote the wishes of Administration and I flatter myself I may with propriety be allowed to add, that as a *private man* I have given great support to it. During my stay at Boston my Lord, I expended above £1500 beyond my pay, which I was led to do, from zeal to support the honor, and dignity of His Majesty's Government, and in order to act up to the fullness and spirit of my Instructions. This Sum my Lord, I must ever think I have an undoubted claim to ; But as I wish to accommodate if your Lordship will be pleased to order me £500 to assist in furnishing my house, which I am very much distressed for, and will add £200 a year to my salary, as Governor of the Royal Academy here, I shall be made very happy ; though it will not be equal to my having the Newfoundland Command, or a Colonelcy of Marines some years ago ; And I beg leave to observe that with the above addition to my Salary, it will be far short of the Emoluments of the Royal Academy at Woolwich.

In full confidence, that from your Lordship's candour & Love of Justice, I shall obtain relief I have the honour to subscribe myself My Lord &c., &c., &c., SAM. HOOD.

Rt Honble Lord North.

Copy, in Hood's own handwriting.

No. 2377—*The Quarter-Master General to* [?].

Sir—Major Bromehead of the South Lincolnshire Militia informs me that the Regiment will come into Hyde Park at Grovenor Square Gate tomorrow morning at Nine O'Clock, & pass through the three Parkes to Westminster bridge in their way to Greenwich, Bromley &c.

The Colonel Sibthorp is confined by illness & the Lieu[t] Colonel Neivel, from the late distress of having lost his wife. The two Divisions join at Totenham Court & proceed from thence together.

(Signed) George Morrison
Q.M.Gen[l]

Bolton Street,
Tuesday morning 11 *O'Clock*
June 9th 1778.

No. 2378—*The Earl of Suffolk to the King.*

Your Majesty wou'd have heard from me sooner if I had before this morning received the Attorney General's Answer to what I intimated to him, which was that I found Your Majesty so impressed with his manly & disinterested Behaviour, that I did believe Your Majesty wou'd be pleased particularly to mark your Sense of it, And that I sh[d] not be surprised if your Majesty thought of proposing the Office of Chancellor of the Dutchy to him Yourself. I need not say how deeply he felt this communication. His Decision upon it Your Majesty will find in the inclosed Letter [see No. 2375]. It therefore only remains that Your Majesty shou'd (if You please so to condescend) call the Attorney General into the Closet on Wednesday, and confer (what to him will be the highest Gratification) the Honour & comfort of knowing personally from Your Majesty that his Duty & Zeal for Your Majesty's Service has been properly understood, & met with your royal Approbation.

Duke S[t], Westm:
June 9. 1778.
2 P.M.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2379—*Mr. Robinson to the King.*

Mr. Robinson has the Honour to transmit to His Majesty, some Letters which he received last Night by express from Mr. Gordon at Corke, they contain but little intelligence, but Mr. Robinson apprehends it may not be disagreeable to His Majesty to be informed of even that little, and therefore takes the Liberty to send them.

Treasury Chambers,
10*th June* 1778.

No. 2380—*The King to Lord North.*

Lord North—I entirely concurr with You in opinion that no weight is to be given to the intelligence Mr. Forth has received by Express. I send the two letters to shew what a curious correspondent I have got. You will commit them to the Flames.

I think the Barracks cannot run better than in the order observed in the enclosed Card.

Kew,
June 13*th* 1778.
$\frac{m}{50}$ p^t 6 P.M.

No. 2381—*The King to Lord North.*

Lord North—I perceive Mr. Wentworth not only sends duplicates of his intelligence but also of his own letters ; I had at S^t James's received a note from Lord Suffolk mentioning he had sent You a letter to communicate unto me ; but that he gave no credit to the intelligence.

Kew,
June 17*th*, 1778.
$\frac{m}{46}$ p^t 6 P.M.

No. 2382—*The King to Lord North.*

Lord North—I have signed the Warrants, and feel very strongly the zeal of the Bristol Gentlemen who raised the Sub-

scription for compleating the Army and Marines, though sorry they could not inlist more Men.

KEW,
June 20th 1778.
$\frac{m}{10}$ p^t 2 P.M.

No. 2383—*The King to Lord North.*

LORD NORTH—I have just received Your information of the Speaker's arrival in Town to have his Audience of me this Day, I shall very patiently hear him and certainly say as little as possible.

I enclose the £4000. which I had omitted putting into Your hands, which is the whole that was due on the private Account.

ST. JAMES'S,
June 26th 1778
$\frac{m}{44}$ p^t M.

No. 2384—*Lord Barrington to the King.*

CAVENDISH SQUARE,
27th *June*, 1778.

I have just received a Letter from Lieutenant General Craig acquainting me that Ensign & Adjutant Richardson of the 1st Regiment of Guards desires to give up his Adjutantcy: He is not to sell it, and the General does not know the ground of his resignation. The Duke of Gloucester recommends Mr. Heywood a younger Son of the Colonel's to succeed Cap^n Douglass lately promoted, as Ensign. If I do not hear to the Contrary from Your Majesty before I leave London next Wednesday morning, I shall signify Your Majesty's acceptance of Richardson's resignation & approbation of Heywood. BARRINGTON.

Lord Amherst & I have settled a Letter to General Burgoyne which is sent to him.

No. 2385—*Mr. Mitchell to the King.*

SIRE—Following the Example of the King of Kings, who never rejects the Petitions of his faithfull Servants, may your

Majesty, his Vice-gerent, graciously following the Example of your divine Master, be disposed to comply with this humble Request from One of your Old and very Affectionate Soldiers, to admitt him to a private Audience of your Majesty, having Matters of the Utmost Consequence to communicate, with some Part of which he became acquainted during a Journey to Paris, from whence he is just returned, and where he had an opportunity of repeated Conversations with an Old Acquaintance, now One of the Rebel American Ambassadors (as they are called) at the Court of France.

He requests your Majesty will have the Goodness not to refer him to any of your Ministers, but condescend to comply with his Request of being admitted to a private confidential Conversation with your Majesty, without witnesses, which Mark of Condescention, will be a Proof of that Goodness of Disposition for which you are so justly beloved.

I am Sire Your Majesty's dutifull and Devoted Subject

P. MITCHELL.

WINDSOR,
29*th June* 1778.

P.S. Should your Majesty not give an immediate Answer to this Request, will you not condescend to notify your Pleasure by a Message to Mr. Mitchell at the White Hart Inn, Windsor.

No. 2386—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of inclosing for his Majesty's perusal several papers which he received on Sunday Evening from Mr. Thornton, the gentleman who brought over the letter from the Rebel agents at Paris to Lord North about the prisoners, and who was to have been appointed their agent for inspecting the prisons, if their proposal had been accepted.

Lord North has had three conversations with Mr. Thornton, the result of which is nearly as follows.

" On the 27 of December last a brother of Mr. Deane sail'd from Bourdeaux with a *Projet* of a Treaty between France and the Rebels a duplicate of this *Projet* was afterwards carried to America by Mr. Holker Jun. son to Mr. Holker of Rouen The *Projet* was not signed by either party. The death of the Elector of Bavaria happening soon after The French Ministry paid for

some time less attention to the Rebel agents than they had done before. However, their former negociations were afterwards resumed, & ended in a Treaty which was sign'd on the 6 of February by the three Rebel Agents & by Mr. Girard on the part of the French King. The Rebel agents, however, in signing the Treaty, enter'd upon the face of it, a Protest against two articles demanded by the French Court. The *First* was, an engagement on the part of the Rebel colonies not to make peace with Great Britain without the consent of France and the Second, A Grant of the exclusive Trade of the Colonies to France for 31 years. This latter had been first demanded by France without any limitation of time, she had afterwards reduced her demand to 31 years & the agents had offered 21 as the two parties could not agree upon these two permits, The agents protested against these two articles, but sign'd the rest of the Treaty leaving the protested articles to the determination of the Congress. Mr. Thornton adds that Doctor Franklin sent a letter with the Treaty cautioning his Friends in the Congress from acceding too hastily to the proposals of France.

On the 17 of Feb^{y} a messenger arrived from Mr. de Noailles with letters from him to Mr. de Vergennes informing the French Ministry that Lord North would make such a proposition in Parliament as the Americans would not refuse The French Ministry sent immediately to the Rebel agents to desire them to send some able British or American Pilot to conduct a French Frigate of 32 Guns which was to sail immediately from Port Louis to North America. The agents pitched upon a Captain Coulter who set out from Paris to Port Louis on the 18. By Mr. Girard's conversation Mr. Thornton understood that the Crew was to consist almost entirely of Frenchmen, having no foreigners on board except Coulter and that the Ship carried letters from the Court of France by which they desisted from the two disputed Articles in the Treaty and offer'd to conclude it upon the terms admitted by the Rebel agents. Mr. Thornton says that letters went also by this ship cautioning the Americans against engaging too hastily with France and he thinks that the Andromeda will be in America before her. He says that the arrival of the Andromeda may be of great consequence as there are many people in America and even in the Congress itself who are very averse to an alliance with France."

Mr. Thornton is a friend to Dr Franklin and speaks of him, probably better than he deserves, but he represents him & Lee as friends to a reunion between Gt. Britain and the Colonies. He says of Deane that he is a selfish man, who has made an immense fortune by the present troubles & wishes to see them continue. He adds that he has no doubt but he encouraged John the Painter to set fire to the Dock Yard at Portsmouth. He thinks the French were seriously determined upon War, & that they will begin early in the spring. He supposes their first attack will be in the Mediterranean & points out Gibraltar as the most probable object. Spain is not a party to the Treaty, but is invited by the contracting parties to accede. The King of Prussia has refused to receive Alderman Lee as Agent for the Colonies at Berlin.

No. 2387—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 202.

KEW,
July 3rd, 1778.

LORD NORTH—Thinking it not unlikely You may see Sir W. Howe within a day or two, I judge it right without loss of time to apprise You that I had a very long conversation with him this day the Substance of which was his very strongly declaring nothing shall make either His Brother or Him join Opposition, but that Lord G. Germaine and his Secretaries [K]Nox and Cumberland have everywhere loaded him with obloquy that he must therefore be allowed some means of justifying himself; then touched on the intended expedition to St. Lucia which he in the strongest manner disapproves of says there is not so fine an Army in the World as the troops in America, that the Expedition will succeed but end in the destruction of the Troops.

I have also seen Lord Sandwich who says the East India Company much wish Sir Edward Hughes may be the Admiral named to command in that part of the Globe, that he knows he can be persuaded to return if graced with a Red Ribband, I should immagine no Sailor having lately been graced with it and two vacancies not [? now] existing it may not be unwise to gratify this wish.

No. 2388

SHIPS THAT SAILED ON THE 9TH OF JULY UNDER THE COMMAND OF ADMIRAL KEPPELL.

Rate	Guns	Name	Commander	Flag Officer	Compliment
1	100	Victory	John Faulkner	Adm: Keppel	883
2	90	Queen	Isaac Prescot	Vice Adm: Harland.	772
2	90	Formidable	John Bazely	Vice Adm: Paliser	772
2	90	Duke	William Brereton		750
2	90	Ocean	John Laforey		750
2	90	Pr: George	Sir John Lindsay		750
2	90	Sandwich	Richard Edwards		750
3	80	Foudroyant	John Jervis		650
3	74	Valiant	Hon. I. Levison Gower		650
3	74	Berwick	Hon. Keith Stewart		600
3	74	Courageux	Ld: Mulgrave		600
3	74	Cumberland	Joshua Peyton		600
3	74	Egmont	John Carter Allen		600
3	74	Elizabeth	Hon: Fred: Maitland		600
3	74	Hector	Sir John Hamilton		600
3	74	Monarch	Joshua Rowley		600
3	74	Ramillies	Robert Digby		600
3	74	Robust	Alex: Hood		600
3	74	Vengeance	Michael Clements		600
3	64	America	Lord Longford		500
3	64	Bienfaisant	John Macbride		500
3	64	Defiance	Samuel Goodall		500
3	64	Exeter			500
3	64	Stirling Castle	Sir Chars Douglas Bt.		500
	28	Andromeda	Bryne.		200
	32	Arthusa	Samuel Marshal.		220
	28	Milford	Sir William Burnaby		200
	28	Proserpine	Sutton		200
	28	Fox	Hon. Tho. Windsor.		200
		Sailed the 11th July			
3	74	Thunderer	Hon R. B. Walsingham		600
3	64	Worcester	John Robinson		500
		To Sail on the 12th July			
3	74	Centaur	Philip Cosbie		600
3	74	Terrible	Sir Richd Bickerton		600
3	64	Vigilant	Robt Kingsmill		500
					19,047

No. 2389—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of inclosing a letter from Mr. Wentworth to Mr. Robinson & another from Mr. Edwards to Mr. Wentworth containing very important intelligence. Lord North hopes that the intended attack of Ad: Keppell's Squadron is true, but he still doubts of it; Lord North would be glad if he could with reason persuade himself that the rest of the news, which is more alarming were equally doubtful; but he is sorry to say that he gives credit to the greatest part of it, even to that part which relates to Spain whose designs with respect to this country Lord North believes to be almost as hostile as those of France.

Lord North takes the liberty of adding a narrative of all the transactions between S^{r} James Wright & D^{r} Addington, which was left with him today by S^{r} James Wright, who had about him the originals of all the letters referd to in the inclosed paper.

Lord North has communicated to Sir Edward Hughes his Majesty's gracious intentions towards him, which he receives with great marks of satisfaction & gratitude; Lord North humbly requests his Majesty's pleasure with regard to the other vacant ribband, & would be glad to learn whether it is his Majesty's intention to give it to Lord Antrim as one of the present vacancies has been occasioned by the death of an Irish Peer.

Lord North was very glad to hear yesterday from Lord Sandwich that two Ships of Line had sailed in the morning to join Admiral Keppell, and that three more were to sail this morning on the same errand. Nothing is now so much to be wish'd as that the French would fight Mr. Keppell with his nine & twenty sail before the declaration of Spain, But such a measure seems to Lord North too advantageous to this country for France to take.

Bushy Park.
July 12. 1778.

No. 2390—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of informing his Majesty that he desired M^{r} Keene to communicate to Lord Powys his Majesty's gracious intentions to Lady Powys. Mr. Keene has since written

to her annexing her departure from Great Britain as a condition of the Grant without which indeed Lord North fears that his Majesty's Bounty would be thrown away & be neither beneficial to the Mother nor to the son.

Bushy Park,
July 12. 1778.

No. 2391—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 203.

Kew,
July 12*th* 1778.
$\frac{m}{20}$ p^t 4. P.M.

Lord North—I received this morning from Lord Suffolk an exact copy of the paper from Mr. Wentworth and made on reading the same remark you do, that I rather wished than expected the French would Venture a general Engagement with Admiral Keppell; but that I believe the American Project of harrassing our Coasts, which the want of Frigates almost disables us from preventing.

I have read the narrative of what past between Sir James Wright and D^r Addington, and am fully convinced of what I suspected before that the two Old Earls, like old Coachmen still loved the smack of the Whips and that Sir Ja^s Wright to appear a Man of Consequence has gone beyond his Instructions; certainly it would have been wiser if no Messages had been sent.

I thoroughly consent to Your acquainting Ld. Antrim that he shall have the other vacant Red Ribband.

The directions You have given concerning Lady Powys are perfectly agreable to Your instructions.

Do not forget to send to Dr. Davis concerning the Election at Eton.

No. 2392—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 204.

Lord North—The intelligence from Bancroft may not be entirely false though it is certainly greatly exagerated, for to intimidate has never been one of his chief aims; M^r Almodavar

has expressed a wish to Appear as soon as he can a little recover from the fatigue of his Journey, Friday is therefore fixed for His Audience.

WINDSOR CASTLE.
July 14*th* 1778.
$\frac{m}{23}$ *pt* 9 P.M.

No. 2393—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 199.

KEW,
July 18*th*, 1778
$\frac{m}{29}$ p^t 1. P.M.

LORD NORTH—The moment I received the paper from M^r Robinson last night after I was gone to Bed, after reading it I put it into the Box and ordered the Messenger to proceed to Bushy, it was so self evident that but the mode could be followed You have already this Morning settled with Lord Sandwich, that I did not think it necessary to add a letter unto it. There can be no reason to delay issuing the Orders till a Cabinet is Summoned, what is so clear ought never to be delayed for that formality; I should think the affair of the Belle Poule should be added to the Manifesto to be sent to foreign Courts and France having now cast off the Mask and declared War, which must shew we have not been the Agressors but have perhaps shewn too much temper; but I trust in the Assistance of Providence to a just Cause, and to the bravery of the Nation. How are privateers to be encouraged, may not some plan be thought of by that means to distroy the trade of the Enemy.

No. 2394—*Lord North to the King.*

LORD NORTH—I return the Papers you had transmitted for my perusal, as to the packet to the Duchess of Ancaster I have put it into the Queen's hands who will probably not think it a breach of Decorum to open it.

July 24*th*, 1778.
$\frac{m}{18}$ p^t 5 P.M.

No. 2395—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

ADMIRALTY,
July 25th, 1778.

Lord Sandwich has the honour to send to your Majesty the letters just received from Admiral Keppell, as allso a letter from Captain Drake of the Russell who has been separated from Admiral Byron in a hard gale of wind & obliged to put back in great distress.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2396—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 206.

Lord North Has judged perfectly with regard to Lord Bathurst and has acted properly in postponing supposing to guess at his intentions till they were fully explained on paper. I will not object to a pension but trust as He would have taken the Privy Seal that He will be contented with one not exceeding the value of that Office and not expect one equal to that of His predecessor Lord Northington. Lord North will see by this that he is now enabled by Me to negociate this business and arrange it on as reasonable a plan as He can and indeed considering it was Lord Bathursts own plan not mine that obliged me to remove him, He cannot expect to be put on any but a genteel foot, as He wishes office he certainly can have no claim but to a pension during pleasure, by the note I received the last Evening from Lord Sandwich I trust Admiral Keppell will get between the French Squadron and their Coast, but do not think we can have [news] of an action before Monday.

WINDSOR CASTLE,
July 25th 1778.
$\frac{m}{41}$ *pt* 9. P.M.

No. 2397—*Extract of Sir Henry Clinton's Dispatch No.* 11.

NEW YORK,
July 27th 1778.

By the best intelligence it is supposed Washington's Army has been greatly reinforced; the part of it under his own im-

mediate Command is said to be near 16,000 the Corps under Gates about 7,000 and that under Sullivan 5,000 in the neighbourhood of Rhode Island, that great reinforcements are coming in even now, and that much greater are expected after the Harvest.

With respect to my future Operations or views, I am unable to say much, my whole force at this place and Rhode Island including Provincials not being above 25,977 Rank and File fit for Duty 8,000 of which are to go to the West Indies and the Floridas, and I make [may] expect a requisition from General Haldimand which will be little less than 6000 Men, so that I shall have about 12000 Men remaining which would require 15,000 even if we had the exclusive command of the Sea, and were in full possession of the East Sound.

Copy, in the King's handwriting.

No. 2398—*Memorandum by the King.*

Return of the Troops in Canada shewing what number may be assembled to act upon any Sudden Emergency taken from the monthly Return of July.

QUEBEC, *July* 30*th* 1778.

	Lt. Col.	Majors	Capt.	Sub:	Serjts	Drum:	Rank and File.
Total Strength in the Province	7	7	61	162	391	157	5915
Deduct for Sick, prisoners, and Absentees							598
Total	7	7	61	162	391	157	5317
Deduct the Troops at the Upper Posts	1	1	7	30	49	32	751
	6	6	54	132	342	125	4566
To be left in Quebec, Montreal, Chambly, St. John, Isle aux Noix and what may be expedient to leave for the Security of the Camp	1	2	10	20	40	16	1000
Numbers that may be assembled	5	4	44	112	302	109	3566

No. 2399—*The King to Lord North.*

Lord North—I desire You will acquaint the Bishop of London that I am extremely happy to find he has prepared a new translation of Isaiah as I know no Man so able to perform that difficult task, indeed to his merit alone does He owe his present station which he so respectably fills.

Kew, *Aug^t* 1^st^ 1778.

$\frac{m}{47}$ *p^t^* 3 P.M.

No. 2400—*The King to Lord North.*

Lord North—I am much pleased at Your attention in transmitting so essential a piece of intelligence as the arrival of the East India Fleet, which I trust will soon be confirmed.

Kew,
Augt. 6th 1778.
$\frac{m}{3}$ *p^t^* 10 P.M.

No. 2401—*Lord Bristol to the King.*

Ickworth Park,
August 7th 1778.

Sir—Your Majesty having thought proper by your Declaration to open Hostilities with France, and my Health being so perfectly re-established; I cannot resist throwing myself once more at y^r^ Royal Feet, to repeat my offers of Service at this Critical time, to your Majesty, in any manner, time, or place, Your Majesty shall think proper to employ me: Nor would I, Sir, trouble y^r^ Majesty again on this occasion, could I resist the most anxious Ardour, which I feel, to devote my Life and Fortune to y^r^ Majesty's and my Country's Service, in that Profession in which I have served forty-four years: The manner in which I have always served, and the Justness and Goodness of y^r^ Majesty's Heart, leaves me, not the least doubt of Your Majesties favourable Reception of this, my most humble, repeated

Request; and whatever may be the fate of my Application to y^r^ Majesty only, on this occasion; I shall ever remain, what I have ever been, with the Greatest Respect and the warmest Attachment Sir Your Majesty's most faithfull, Dutifull servant & subject BRISTOL.

No. 2402—*Commodore Hood to the King.*

Pardon most Gracious Sovereign my presumption in addressing your Majesty and condescend to hear the complaint of a faithfull servant.

During my residence (when I had the honor of commanding your Majesty's Squadron in North America) at Boston, when ferment and party rage ran high, I expended above fifteen hundred pounds beyond my pay, from zeal for your Majesty's Service, and in order to act up to the spirit and fulness of my instructions, which were to use every means in my power to pacify and conciliate M^r^ Gambier [who] succeeded me in that command, and for following the example I sett him, his expences were paid him to the amount of fifteen hundred pounds, though his stay at Boston was shorter than mine. I made frequent applications to Lord North upon the subject, who always acknowledged the justness of my pretensions and encouraged me to hope for some mark of favour in the line of my profession to make me amends, which I was very willing to accept and named to his Lordship two Things a marine Division, and the Newfoundland command. In the winter of 1773, the latter became vacant, I sollicited his Lordship's interest in my behalf, and flattered myself I should succeed by a letter I rec^d^ from Sir Grey Cooper. But I failed. I then renewed in person, my application for a reimbursement of my expences, when his Lordship said, why you have another Object Captain Hood, a marine Division, I replied, it was my primary object, and if his Lordship would assure me of being a Colonel of Marines, whenever a promotion of Flag officers took place, be it ever so distant, I should be most perfectly satisfied—his Lordship's answer was, I could not fail—Though not long after two Divisions became vacant, but neither fell to my lot. Since which I have not been able to gett Lord North to see me, which led me to trouble his Lordship with the two letters, I most

humbly take the liberty of offering to your Majesty's sight not having rec[d] a word in answer to either. When Lord Sandwich was pleased to make me an offer of this yard: my answer to his Lordship was, that my wish most certainly went to a marine Division, but if my being the Commissioner here would accommodate any arrangement his Lordship might wish to make, I would readily accept the office, as my well-known bodily infirmities would justify me in it, in the busiest times.

A zeal and ardour for your Majesty's Service has ever guided all my actions, and I have had the strictest regard to truth in what I say, and from Your Majesty's condescending goodness to me, I am led to entertain a hope you will be graciously pleased to forgive my boldness, in most humbly submitting my case to your royal consideration and will suffer me to subscribe my self in all humility Your Majesty's most Dutifull Servant

SAM HOOD.

PORTSMOUTH DOCK YARD
9th August 1778.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2403—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

The Report of the committee appointed to enquire into the State of Greenwich is copied for your Majesty's use, that as the affair will probably be a subject of conversation your Majesty may throw your eye over it at your leisure; Lord Sandwich therefore takes the liberty to return it together with the Libel on which it is founded.

Your Majesty will recieve an account of the damage sustained in the Masts Yards and Bowsprits of Admiral Keppels fleet, which is very great indeed; and it is to be observed that there is no mention of what the ships have suffered in their Hulls & Cordage: it is to be feared that Mr. Keppell was so shattered in the action that if the French had not gone off, he would not have been able to have attacked them with advantage; this appears to be confirmed by an account from on board the Victory in a letter to Sir Edward Hughes, which your Majesty will find herewith; and tho' short, seems to be as clear as any account yet recieved.

It is to be observed that Lord Sandwich has not had a syllable concerning the action from Sir Hugh Pallisser or any of his friends on board the fleet, nor does he hear of any in town, except this which is put into his hands by S^{r} E: Hughes. it should look from hence as if it was a measure in the fleet, that nothing should be written but by Admiral Keppell himself.

Lord Sandwich has the honour to enclose a copy of the private letter he lately wrote to Admiral Keppell.

Your Majesty will find a letter from Guernsey which proves to a certainty that Mons^{r} D'Estaing is gone to America, & another from the same place which mentions the particulars of the taking the Lively.

The Jupiter will sail this day from Longreach to the Nore.

ADMIRALTY
Aug 9.th 1778.

No. 2404—*Sir Stanier Porten to the King.*

Your Majesty's Commands will be carefully obeyed at this Office, and they notified yesterday to the other Offices and to M^{r} Stephens.

ST JAMES'S,
10*th August* 1778
$\frac{m}{35}$ P.M.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2405—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 207.

LORD NORTH—The Present accounts from America seem to put a final stop to all Negociation; farther concession is a joke, all that can now be done is steadily to pursue the plan very wisely adopted in the Spring the providing Nova Scotia, the Floridas and Canada with troops, and should that not leave enough for New York which may in the end be the case we must then abandon that place, then we must content ourselves with

distressing the Rebels, and not think of any other conduct till the end of the French which if successful will oblige the Rebels to submit to more reasonable [terms] than can at this hour be obtained.

WINDSOR,
Aug^t 12^th^ 1778.

No. 2406—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of informing his Majesty that the Duke of Ancaster died on Wednesday last. S^r^ Richard Jebb & M^r^ Bromfield who were sent for were met upon the road with the account of his death. The Duchess desired Lord Rob^t^ Bertie to acquaint his Majesty of it, & Lord North has this instant received from him the enclosed note.

Friday morn^g
Aug: 14 1778.

Enclosure. *Lord Robert Bertie to Lord North.*

MY LORD—I have this moment received by Express the Melancholy account of the Death of the Duke of Ancaster & am Desired By the Dutchess to acquaint His Majesty of it, thinking it the Properest Channel to have it conveyed to the King I take the Liberty to trouble your Lordship with the Dutchess's Request.

I am, My Lord With the Greatest Regard & Esteem Your Lordships Ob. Hum. Ser. ROB^T^ BERTIE.

CHISLEHURST,
Thursday Evening
Past Seven.

No. 2407—*The King to Lord North.*

LORD NORTH—I am sorry to find by Your letter the Report confirmed of the death of the Duke of Ancaster I shall certainly not fix in my mind of a Successor though so near my person without consulting You and desire You will on Your part only receive the applications that may be made unto You and not

engage Yourself untill You have laid the various names before me; indeed I do not see any great hurry for deciding on the proper Successor.

WINDSOR CASTLE,
Augt. 14th 1778.
$\frac{m}{30}$ *pt.* 2. P.M.

No. 2408—*The Duke of Manchester to Lord North.*

PORTSMOUTH CAMP
Aug. 19th 1778.

MY LORD—As I do not wish to conceal any material intelligence that I receive, and your Lordship seem'd anxious to hear, I take the Liberty of mentioning to you that I have received an account from abroad which I give credit to, that the French Fleet was to come out of Brest on the 20th instant, *with orders* to engage Adm^{l} Keppell: they are considerably reinforc'd, being *38* Sail of the Line and *28* Frigates with Five Fire Ships.

I have the honour to be with great regard My Lord Your Lordship's Most Obedient & humble Serv^{t} MANCHESTER.

No. 2409—*The Duke of Manchester to* [?].

[? 1778.]

The Duke of Manchester has reason to believe that the French still systematically proceed in their plan to invade England and Ireland & that they are much elated by the suppos'd Victory over the English Fleet—the troops intended for the Descent are very numerous, and are now collected in Normandy, at Dieppe & other towns, at Cherburg & adjacent Places—at Dunkirk & Bologne—that Vessels of Transport are prepar'd—the Commanders are nam'd both for England and Ireland—

that Spain is in treaty with America and terms sent over there—

An attack is propos'd by American Privateers in Ireland near Belfast, and that immediate

These accounts are very authentic.

No. 2410—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of sending his Majesty M^r D——r's negociation, & several letters from M^r W——containing intelligence the last of which he received this morning. Lord North is afraid that he shall not be able to leave the Treasury Board today time enough to pay his duty at S^t James's.

Lord North has the honour of inclosing a letter he received last night from the D: of Chandos.

Downing Street,
Aug: 21. 1778.

No. 2411—*Lord George Germain to the King.*

Lord George Germain has the honor of sending your Majesty Letters from S^r Henry Clinton and the Commissioners at Newyorke brought by Colonel Patterson and Sir Richard Wriotesley. Your Majestys Troops have done themselves great honor in an action on the 28^th^ of June in the Jerseys, and the army and all the Baggage arrived at Newyorke on the 4^th^ of July. Comte D'Estaigns Fleet arrived on the 11^th^ of July and anchor'd at Sandyhook, having first look'd into Chesepeak Bay, and into the Delawear, so that they miss'd Lord Howe and Transports only by a few days. Lord Howe form'd a Line within Sandyhook with six Ships of 64, 3 of 50 and 2 of 40 Guns besides several Frigates and the Vigilant carrying 14 24-pounders. Colonel Patterson sail'd on the 18^th^ of July by a passage which avoided Sandyhook, and Sir Henry Clinton sent an aide de Camp on board the Packet the morning he sail'd to acquaint him that Comte D'Estaigns Fleet was preparing to sail, and he had reason to believe intended an Attack upon Rhode Island. Had Admiral Byrons Squadron not met with a Storm M^r D'Estaigns Fleet must have been destroyed, if any part of Admiral Byron's Fleet arrives in time, Lord Howe may Still act with success. The Evacuating Philadelphia will *now* possibly be approved by the Commissioners.

Kew Lane,
August 22^nd^ 1778.
$\frac{m}{10}$ p^t 10. P.M.

If your Majesty pleases to see Colonel Patterson tomorrow, Lord George will send to him.

No. 2412—*The King to Lord North.*

Lord North—I return the papers You sent me on Friday; I cannot but say the personal Character and conduct of the Duke of Chandois [*sic*] makes him very worthy of the Post he seems to apply for; but I shall take no determination till You have had full time to consider of the various pretenders to it, as at the same time that I shall wish to pitch on the most proper person I shall wish to have You fully concurr from opinion with me in the Choise I shall make.

Kew, *Augt.* 23^{d} 1778.

$\frac{m}{46}$ p^{t} 4. P.M.

I enclose the petition I mentioned the other day.

No. 2413—*Lord Hertford to the King.*

Sire—Your Majesty permits me now & then to trouble you upon paper, instead of diverting you by a personal application from more important business.

May I then presume to lay myself at your Majesty's feet in this manner, & to supplicate and intreat a favor from you which I am more anxious to obtain than I can easily express.

It is the removal of a Company of the Norfolk militia from the little Town of Orford, and that your Majesty may be acquainted with the exact state & circumstances of the request I make, I will beg leave to lay before your Majesty the situation & condition of the place, with the peculiar manner in which I am affected by it.

The Town of Orford as I said before is an extream small place tho' the Church & a vain [*sic*] in it may give it an air of grandor upon a Map, or at a distant View of it. It is situated near the Coast, not upon the Main Sea, but upon a river which is navigable for very small ships & for such only, there being no depth of Water in it; The mouth of it communicates with the Sea in the most dangerous part of a very dangerous Coast, & the little port of Orford though I have never heard it called by so distinguished a name any where but by the Inhabitants themselves, is de-

pendant upon the port of Aldborough which is upon the Main Sea. It is likewise landlocked, & the River is on both sides surrounded with Marshes; It is therefore a place where an Enemy cannot come nor has it in itself any defence.

It must therefore be included in the disposition of the Troops merely as a relief to other Towns.

In regard to myself & my own interests & convenience, It is very differently circumstanced from any other Towns in the Neighbourhood of which there are many & some few of very considerable Extent; the Town of Orford is so near & so much connected with me in all respects that it is in a manner my own house, & every trouble difficulty or inconvenience arising there must sensibly and immediately affect my ease & comfort in the Country; This is peculiar to the Town of Orford & myself, for it is not the Case of any other of the Towns or proprietors, there being no Gentleman of fortune living near any other of the places I could enumerate in that district.

The Town small as it is, is composed of houses belonging to very poor Laborers, or to the Burgesses of the place who occasionally reside in them & they belong almost entirely to me, nor was there that I know of or have heard ever a soldier in it which may have been owing to the situation of the place or to the circumstances of it, as a Borough town, being such, as I have had the honor of stating them to your Majesty. It being a militia Company that is sent there is by no means an alleviating circumstance, for the officers of those Corps being Country Gentlemen used to command at home & not subject to control, are more difficult than those in the regular service, & as one proof of it my agent in Suffolk writes me word that the Gentlemen who are come to Orford with this Company are arrived with Dogs &c of all sorts as if the Manors were their own.

I presume herewith to inclose to your Majesty three answers I have received from Lord Barrington Lord Amhurst & Colonel Ray upon the occasion that You may be in possession of everything which has passed upon the subject to my knowledge.

And I will only add to this long & I fear tedious representation for which I ask ten thousand pardons, that if your Majesty's service was really and essentially interested in it I would say nothing but silently submit to all the inconveniences I have mentioned or alluded to, or quit even my Country residence there;

but as Orford is so very peculiarly circumstanced & only grouped with other Towns which do not require that assistance from so small a place, I humbly presume to lay my distress before your Majesty & if You are pleased to honor me with your countenance & indulgence upon the occasion I shall not count it the least of many favors for w'ch I am indebted to you, & for which I profess myself with duty & gratitude Sire Your Majesty's most faithful and devoted humble serv't HERTFORD.

LONDON
Aug'st 31, 1778.

No. 2414—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

ADMIRALTY
Sept: 2^{d} 1778.

Lord Sandwich has the honour to forward to your Majesty the dispatches recieved some days ago from Admiral Keppell, as allso those just now come to hand, together with all his private letters to me.

Your Majesty will percieve that Mr. Keppell has changed his opinion about the Fleets coming to Torbay, the reasons he gives, L^{d} Sandwich was allways apprized of, and thinks Mr. Keppells second plan much safer & better than his first; he would therefore wish to order the fleet to Spithead instead of Torbay, but cannot presume to think of proposing that measure till he knows whither it coincides with your Majestys sentiments; it may perhaps be adviseable to send some of the ships to Plymouth, as there will otherwise be too much business for one Port.

L^{d} Sandwich has the honour to congratulate your Majesty upon the taking a French Indiaman by Captain Finch, another was brought into Bristol a few days ago by a Privatier.

No. 2415—*The King to Lord North.*

KEW,
Sep^{t} 2^{d} 1778.
$\frac{m}{43}$ p^{t} 8. P.M.

The justice of the pretensions of the Eldest Son of the Nabob of Arcot cannot but incline every one that thinks right in his

favour, and the mildness of his disposition certainly must make his Succeeding his Father more for the interest of the English Possessions in that part of the Globe than his Younger Brother who is described of a very different turn of mind.

I trust the little journey Lord North is tomorrow to proceed on will be conducive to his health and amusement; I forgot to mention this day that Doctor Hunter has attended Mrs. Lloyd at Dillington who from an opperation is for the present in much better health; the House is prepared for the reception of Lord North and for the Celebration of Mr North's Birthday.

No. 2416—*Mr. Robinson to the King.*

Mr Robinson has the Honour to transmit to His Majesty some Intelligence which he has received from Mr Wentworth just now by his Servant. While Mr Robinson was extracting it to send away immediately to Lord Sandwich, the Letter to Lord North, referred to by Mr Wentworth in Mr Robinson's Letter, was brought to him; Mr Robinson therefore forwards them both. Mr Robinson has also sent Extracts to Lord Sandwich & to Lord Weymouth.

Syon Hill,
Tuesday, 8th *Sept.* 1778. 7° P:M:

No. 2417—*Mr. Robinson to the King.*

Mr Robinson has the Honour to transmit to His Majesty the several dispatches received from Quebec which have just now been brought to him. Mr Robinson does not presume to trouble His Majesty with the pacquets of Orders for the Commissariate and Vouchers sent over by Mr Day, which are very voluminous, without His Majestys Commands for that purpose.

Syon Hill,
13th *September* 1778.
15/*m* p. 2° P:M:

No. 2418—*Intelligence from the American Office.*

WHITEHALL,
13th *Sepr* 1778

Intelligence received from Capn Venture of the Arm'd Brigantine Hannah sent by Lord Howe & Sir Henry Clinton with these Dispatches.

Capn Venture sailed from New York the 1st Augt. Lord Howe was preparing to sail & determined to put to sea the next day with the following Ships, Cornwall 74, Eagle, Trident, Ardent, St. Albans, Nonsuch, Reasonable, Somerset of 64 Guns each, Preston, Centurion, Iris, Renown, Experiment of 50 Each & the Roebuck & Phenix of 44 each, two Bombs & a Fire Ship. Monsr D'Estang had left Sandy Hook the 22d July & steer'd to the Southward. The Renown pass'd thro' the French Fleet the 25th then off the Delaware. Capn Venture on the 9th of August took an American arm'd Ship that had taken a Schooner from Lisbon for New York the 4th. The Crew being Prisoners on board the Rebel Ship, told him that on the 28th of July they had seen a large Ship, which by their description Capn Venture knew to be the Cornwall that arrived at New York the 31st July. They also told him that the day after the wind having changed to the west & obliged them to alter their course, they saw six Sail of large Ships tacking to the West, and by comparing the Account the Prisoners gave of their course with his own, Capn Venture supposes these last Ships were then between Nantucket Shoals and the East end of Long Island about 60 Leagues from New York and very near the Track of the Frigates Lord Howe had sent to look for Admiral Byron's Fleet. The wind continued Westerly with Capn Venture for a fortnight but variable from North West to South West, but it is his opinion that even if the six Ships had the wind in the same manner they would be able to reach New York about the 8th of Augt.

Lord Howe told Capn Venture it was his intention to attack D'Estang with the force he had to prevent his attempting Rhode Island which it was supposed was his purpose.

The Jamaica Fleet is arrived, and also The Baltic Fleet and it is said The Mediteranean Fleet is in the Channel.

No. 2419—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

HAMPTON COURT.
Sept. 13*th* 1778.

Lord Sandwich has the honour to inform your Majesty that Mr. Douglass a Midshipman belonging to the Montreal just arrived from Canada is now with him, he spoke a packett from New York on the 8th of this month, one of the officers of which came on board the Montreal, he does not precisely recollect the day she sailed from New York, but thinks it was about 5 weeks since. The officer reported that D'estaing had left New York, supposed to be gone to the Delawar, that Ld Howe had been joined by the Cornwall one of Admiral Byrons fleet, and was sailed in quest of the French fleet.

The Montreal saw a fleet of 36 sail 30 of them of the Line, supposed to be Admiral Keppell, on the 11th instant about 14 Leagues to the southward of the Lizard. They allso spoke a Portuguese vessell that said they had seen a fleet of 27 sail on the 7th of this month off Cape Finisterre, which they took to be men of War.

Mr. Douglas says that D'estaing tried to water at the Jerseys but could not effect it & was therefore probably obliged to quit his station.

No. 2420—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

HAMPTON COURT
Sept. 13*th* 1778.

Lord Sandwich is allways fearfull of being too troublesome to your Majesty, but imagines you would chuse to see the letters just received from Ld Howe, by which it appears that he is sailed in pursuit of D'Estaing with a force able to face him, tho' he should not be joined by any more of admiral Byrons Squadron before he leaves New York.

Mr. Binstead who is this moment come in from Portsmouth brings an account of the arrival of the Romulus with her convoy from Gibraltar, & the Hussar with the trade from Lisbon: the latter has in her way taken two rich French prizes.

All intelligence that comes to the Admiralty is regularly sent to Admiral Keppell; but if it was thought proper for him to sail

as far as Cape Finisterre in pursuit of the French fleet; it should seem adviseable that your Majesty's servants should have a meeting to submit to your consideration whither such instructions should be sent to him, as it does not occur to L^d^ Sandwich that Mr. Keppell is authorized by his present orders to go to such a distance from England & Ireland.

Tho' it is out of the department of the Admiralty L^d^ Sandwich cannot avoid begging your Majesty to attend to a paragraph in L^d^ Howes letter which confirms every other observation upon the Post office Packetts, that they can neither sail nor fight; they ought all to be copper bottomed; but L^d^ Sandwich is persuaded that will never be done, without positive orders from superior powers; & they ought all of them to be built singly for the purpose of sailing fast.

Enclosure.

List of the fleet now with L^d^ Howe & supposed to be sailed with him in pursuit of Mons^r^ D'Estaing Squadron.

	Guns.		Guns.
Cornwall	74	Iris	50
Leviathan	70	Renown	50
Eagle	64	Centurion	50
Trident	69	Phœnix	44
Raisonable	64	Roebuck	44
S^t^ Albans	64	Venus	36
Somersett	64	Pearl	32
Ardent	64	Richmond	28
Monarch	64	Vigilant	24
Preston	50	Strombolo fireship	
Experiment	50		

No. 2421—*Intelligence.*

WHITEHALL
13^th^ *Septem^r^* 1778

The Dispatches from Governor Haldiman were brought to Mr. Knox this morning a little before One by Lieut. Douglass of

the Montreal Man of War. The Lieut. says that on the 8h Inst. The Montreal spoke with a Packet from New York which had been out 5 weeks a Lieutenant of Marines who was charged with Lord Howe's & General Clinton's Dispatches came on board the Montreal and told Lieut. Douglass that while Mr. D'Estang lay before New York Two 50 Gun ships had passed thro' his Fleet & joined Lord Howe That D'Estang had in vain attempted to procure water for his Fleet at Sandy Hooke and was gone as supposed to the Delaware That the Cornwall one of Admiral Byron's Squadron had arrived at New York and Lord Howe with 7 Sail of the Line exclusive of the Storeships (which the Lieut. Douglass cannot recollect to have been told was also sailed) Five of 50 and two of 44 Guns besides several smaller ships was gone after Mr. D'Estang That D'Estang's Fleet had taken near 30 sail of our shipping, but he could not tell whether any Victuallers had fallen into his hands That the rebel Troops lay about New York Island but no Action had happned.

That on the 9h Inst the Montreal spoke with a Portuguese Brigantine which told her she had on the 7th seen The French Fleet consisting of 27 sail off Cape Finisterre, and on the 11th The Montreal saw 30 sail of large ships supposed to be Admiral Keppels Fleet standing towards the Channel about 12 Leagues from the Lissard.

No. 2422—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

Hampton Court
Sept: 15th 1778.

Lord Sandwich has the honour to send to your Majesty the last letters publick & private that have been recieved from Admiral Keppell, & allso one from Admiral Gambier as it contains some detail concerning Ld Howes fleet.

Admiral Arbuthnot is now with Ld Sandwich, he has left everything well at Halifax, the troops from the Clyde safe arrived & in good health, the Marine battallion he says may be expected home every day the Culloden arrived at Halifax on the 16th of August in great distress having lost one of her topmasts, and landed 240 sick men ; she parted with Admiral Byron ten days before in another storm, 100 Leagues to the Eastward of

S^{t} Georges Bank; he had then no other ship in Company, the Invincible & Guadaloupe having parted from him some days before in a hard gale of wind.

Commissioner Hughes was arrived at Halifax with the Pacifick & Dunmore Storeships, which will be a very seasonable supply of stores for the fleet in America. On the first of September in the night in the Longitude of the Western Islands Mr. Arbuthnot who was in the Thetis fell in with a fleet of ships bound to Europe, which by their Lights, and being close along side of one of them, he was sure were (some of them at least) large Men of War; he supposed them be D'Estaing on his return to Europe but this L^{d} Sandwich cannot believe to be the case, as it seems impossible for him to have recruited his water & to be allready so far advanced in his way home, since the 28th of July when he was seen by some of L^{d} Howes cruizers steering for Rhode Island or Boston; this Idea of Mr. Arbuthnots accounts for what Mr. Keppell says in one of his private letters, concerning the possibility of D'Estaings being returned into these seas.

Your Majesty will observe that tho' Admiral Keppell exculpates Captain Brereton of misbehaviour in the action, the utmost he points out in his behalf is that he should be put upon half pay.

The minutes of the Court Martial held upon this gentleman in the East Indies are very voluminous, they were put in hand to be copied the day L^{d} Sandwich left London, & will be laid before your Majesty the moment they are finished; and Admiral Keppell is written to desire he would as soon as he can, send home the Minutes of the late Court Martial.

No. 2423—*Mr. Robinson to the King.*

Mr. Robinson has had the Honour to receive this Moment, on his return from town, your Majesty's commands respecting Mr. Beaumarchais, and will not fail to inquire immediately whether any information on Oath can be obtained relative to him and his Transactions and Business here. Mr. Robinson has this Evening received information from Mr. John Wilson a Merchant in London and Agent here to the Swedish East India Company, and many years one of the Directors thereof, That he has received advice by the last Post from Sweden, that Agents

from the Court of France are endeavouring to ffreight Ships there for twelve months certain, and that the same Orders for ffreighting Ships is likewise gone to Denmark ; but Mr. Wilson does not think they will get any number of Ships in Sweden, as all their Ships are wanted for exportation of the products of their Country.

Syon Hill.
$\frac{m}{10}$ p^t 8 P.M.
18*th September* 1778.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2424—*Mr. Robinson to the King.*

Mr Robinson feels much concern that Your Majesty should have the trouble to send to London, as well as to Syon Hill this afternoon ; from his Servants not having explained properly that Mr Robinson was certainly to come down to Syon Hill this Evening to a very late Dinner—Mr Robinson did so, and having wrote the other Note to your Majesty, and being just sending it off to Kew, Mr Robinson has been further Honoured with Your Majesty's commands.

Syon Hill,
18*th Sep*^{t} 1778
$\frac{m}{30}$ *p.* 8. P.M.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2425—*Mr. Robinson to the King.*

Mr Robinson has the Honour to transmit to Your Majesty, some further intelligence he has this Moment received from the Commissioners of the Customs in Scotland relative to the Enemies Ships which are off that Coast.

Syon Hill.
19*th September* 1778.
$\frac{m}{15}$ *p* 3^{o} P.M.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2426—*Lord Radnor to* [?].

LONGFORD CASTLE.
Sep. 22. 1778.

SIR—I trouble you with this in Consequence of being informed that the following Application to his Majesty should properly pass thro' your Hands—If the present Method should be improper, I must beg of you to excuse the want of better Information, and trouble you to suggest by the Bearer the right Mode.

It being understood at Salisbury that it is his Majesty's Intention to visit the Camp in this Neighbourhood, and possibly to stop in the City, and see the Palace and Cathedral, the Corporation (to whom I have the Honor to be Recorder) desirous of shewing every Mark of Respect, and Zeal to his Majesty, that is in their Power, have had several Meetings, and come to the Resolutions, which are enclosed, of which I have the Honor to transmit in order to request an indication of his Majesty's Pleasure, whether he will graciously condescend to admit us to the Honor of his Presence in our corporate Capacity, & at what Time & Place.

The Signification of his Majesty's Pleasure thro' me to the Body, in whose name I write, will be respectfully attended to: I need not add my own Indication and Desire to testify every possible Respect.

I am, Sir, your obed^{t} humble Ser^{t} RADNOR.

No. 2427—*Sir Stanier Porten to the King.*

ST. JAMES'S.
Sept 26th. 1778
$\frac{m}{2}$ p^{t} 1 P.M.

Notice has been this morning given to all the Offices in obedience to Your Majesty's Command to Sir Stanier Porten, who will not fail to send to Your Majesty all the Papers he can collect on friday next against Your Majesty's return to Windsor, which God grant may be perfectly safe and happy.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2428—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

Lord Sandwich sends to your Majesty a letter just recieved from Captain Hicks with the account of his being taken by the French fleet; the orders which it is supposed he mentions to have obeyed, must be the sinking his Dispatches before he surrendered.

It is said that Captain Finch's prize is worth 200,000 £.

ADMIRALTY,
Octo. 3d. 1778.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2429—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of submitting to his Majesty's consideration an idea, which he has mention'd to Lord Sandwich & Mr. Robinson, & to them only.

It would not be difficult, or expensive to make an attempt this winter on the Island of Goree & it may be carried into execution without weakening us much at home, & in a manner that is less liable to discovery than any other expedition that can be plan'd.

Goree was taken in the last War by a small force, & without much difficulty, & Lord North has been inform'd that the French have done nothing to strengthen it since the Peace of Paris. If taken it will afford a very useful protection to our African Traders, & contribute to support our very weak establishments on that Continent.

Sir Edward Hughes is to set out in about a month's time to convoy the East India Fleet, & is to take with him for that purpose the Superbe of 74 guns, & the Burford of 64. About the same time it will be right to send a 44 gun ship, and two or three strong frigates to protect the Trade on the Coast of Africa; The Directors of the India Company most earnestly press for another ship of the Line, & Lord Sandwich thinks he can spare the Yarmouth for this service. This whole fleet (with the addition of two Bomb Vessells, which are ready) might sail together with the Indiamen & would be supposed by every body to be destined

for India. It is but little out of their course to stop at Goree in their way.

The whole force would consist of:

The Superbe	74 Guns
Burford	64
Yarmouth	64
1 Ship	44
1 Frigate	32
2 dos.	28
2 Bomb Ketches	—

The Land force would be Lord McLeod's Regt. about 800 recruits that are going to India, & the Marines on board the fleet. To this should be added another Batallion to accompany them to Goree, & after leaving 4 or 500 men in the Garrison, to return with the rest to Europe. This Batallion may likewise be supposed to be given to the E. India Company in consequence of their pressing solicitations.

The destination of this expedition may be perfectly conceal'd with ease, & it will take from this country very little more force than we should be obliged to send to Africa & India without having any such design. Add to this that the French, who seem to have employ'd their whole force in assembling a great fleet in Europe, & in equipping Mr. D'Estaign, appear, for the present moment at least, to have abandon'd their trade, & their distant settlements to our mercy, so that there is much reason to imagine that Goree will not be able long to resist the armament which we shall send against it & which I dare say, might be still further augmented by a 50 gun ship, which might, when the business is done, return directly to England as convoy to the troops.

Lord North has the honour of inclosing a state of the force employ'd against Goree under Mr. Keppell, who took the place almost without resistance.

Lord North begs leave to add another List of eight ships of the Line which would sail immediately if they had their complement of men. That there are seamen enough in the nation is evident from the wonderful facility with which the Privateers man their vessells. Lord Sandwich says, that the admiralty cannot press on shore without great difficulty, that they have not tenders enough to avail themselves properly of the sailors which

arrive in the homeward-bound fleets, & that it would be of no service to press from protections. It is a pity that some method can not be devised to expedite the manning of the fleet. If we could carry on that business with more dispatch, Lord North would not despair of having a fleet in the Spring equal to the combined fleets of France & Spain, especially, if Lord Howe returns victorious from America.

Lord North thought it right just to throw out these ideas for his Majesty's consideration before he has the honour of paying his duty at St. James's on Wednesday.

Bushy Park, *Oct.* 4 [1778].

No. 2430—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 209.

Windsor Castle *Oct. 5th* 1778

$\frac{m}{10}$ *pt.* 9 A.M.

It is impossible more highly to approve than I do of the proposition of attacking Goree, the whole success must depend on the strictest Secrecy, therefore, I must insist on no addition being made as yet to the number of those entrusted with the idea ; so weakly are we provided with Troops that the only difficulty that occurs is how to furnish the additional Soldiers ; but I trust with a little consideration I shall be able to chalk out means of effecting what I look on as so essential a Service. It will be necessary I again repeat it that no more be added to the present informed of this Secret untill it is necessary to order the Ships to Sail except Lord Amherst to whom I would only mention the different modes that may occurr as to me of furnishing the Soldiers least destructive to the small means we have to draw from.

I cannot conclude without expressing my thorough satisfaction at the manner in which I have been received by all Ranks of People on my late tour, I know from Your attachment that this will give You pleasure.

No. 2431—*Mr. Corbet to Lord Robert Bertie.*

JERSEY, *5th Oct.* 1778.

MY LORD—I hope soon to hear that you are quite stout, this goes by a Privateer to Hampton, where he Convoys a Prise which they intend selling there, it is thot. worth near £15,000, and our Market here is over Stockt, besides Prises are almost Daily Coming in: A French Fleet sailed from their West Indies in July, with a Convoy to a Certain Latitude, but I believe three parts at least are brot. in between Jersey & Guernsey & some Ports in England; I think I may venture to say that Prises are brot. into this Island to the amount of above Three hundred Thousand Pound, and not less in Guernsey, and as they are all Chiefly of Nants and Bourdeux, your Lordship May Judge the situation of the Merchants.

Some of our Island People taken by the French Fleet, and who were in Different Ships in the Action with ours, having made their Escape and arrived here 3 Days ago, have made a Declaration of Particulars which plainly shows, that they suffered much more than we imagined in England, they left the Castle Prison of Brest, last Friday a week and say that the Brest Fleet returned into Port the Friday before, that the Fox Frigate was taken by one of their 40 Gun ships, after an Action of four hours, being Dismasted and loosing 20 Men killed and Many wounded. The Capt. was wounded in the beginning by Musket Balls in a Leg, thigh & Arm, but kept the Deck to the last. The crew came to the same Prison two days before these left it, and further told them, that the French Fleet, was so unwilling to meet ours again, that they kept in the Bottom of the Bay, merely to finish their Compagne.

The return of the Fleet is confirmed to me by other accounts, there is five Frigates in St. Malo road, and two more nearly ready and May be there in a week, 26 Transports were with Sails bent, five weeks ago, and every thing ready except Provisions not on board, they are from 3 to 400 Tons, armed with 12 to 16 Guns & 40 to 60 Men, and a Camp is near St. Malo of 20 to 25,000 Men, what they intend I have not been able to find out as yet. The Captain of the Fox, the people heard was doing well.

These times affords us very few opportunitys, If your Lordship will favour me with a Letter, it will make me very happy, this vessel will stay at Hampton a few days to settle the Prise. Mrs. Corbet Joins me in compliments to Lady Robt. Bertie and your Lordship and I have the honour to be, My Lord, Your Lordship's Most obliged and most obedient Servant, M. CORBET.

P.S. Thirteen Men have been taken in a boat going into St. Malo, Some belonging to the Frigates & some to the Transports, with their Leave in their Pockets, they left St. Malo five weeks ago, and the Master only 14 Days who Confirm the return of the French Fleet and says the Duke De. Chartres had passed thro St. Malo in his way to Paris.

Enclosure.

JERSEY, 2*d. October* 1778.

Two Men of this Island, who had been taken in Fortune Bay at Newfoundland by the Americans who gave among a number of them a Shaloop which they fitted and were Coming for Jersey when in the Bay they were taken by the French fleet before the Action, and were Divided in the Different Ships left Brest this Day a Week with about 240 Prisoners for Dinnan, but made their Escape three days ago, and arrived this Day in a small Boat with two Oars ; Have been with me and give the following Particulars, That They were in Different Ships of war in the Action with Admiral Keppel, one in the Sphinx of 64 Guns, who says, that being allowed to come up sometimes, he Describes the Different movemts. of the fleet nearly as mentioned in the Gazette, that they were the third that engaged that being something to windward of their line, they scarce received any Damage, but from a 74 Gun Ship of ours, who was the last that fired upon them & killed them 4 Men and wounded some few, but the Sails and rigging was much Damaged ; that after that they did not fire a Gun ; and a three Decker of ours coming up the Colours were lowered until she was past, to avoid her Broadside, but as soon as passed the Colours were hoisted again. That after the Action they came to Leward of our Fleet and between Ten and Twelve o'Clock at Night they bore away for Brest, that the Sailors and Petty Officers were so allarmed at the thoughts of engaging our Fleet, that there was a general Consternation after they made our Fleet entire, and during the Action ; they had Centrys to keep

them at Quarters, that when they arrived in Brest Harbour, the Jersey Prisoners were all put on board the Bretagne, where they remained two Days they found her much Shattered in her Hull Masts and yards, and were told they had great many Men Killed and wounded, that many more Ships had suffered equally, and a 74 even more, that from what they could learn from the other Prisoners on board, the French must have had upwards of 1500 Men killed and wounded : That Seven Jersey Men were on board la Ville de Paris, who were made to assist taking down and dressing the Wounded, who told them that 280 Men were killed and wounded on board and the Ships so disabled, her MastsYards &c. so Wounded ; and so Shattered in her Hull, that they with Difficulty brought her in ; but cannot go out again.

The other was in the Roland of 64 Guns which was the 26th Ship, but only received a Broadside, which did great Execution, killing 4 Men, Wounding some, Cut away the Main and Mizen Yards, wounded the Bowsprit & Main Mast and Shattered the upper Works so, as to bring nearly two Ports into one, the rigging was also much Damaged, which they suppose was the reason of their getting to Leward, as they could not have worked to Windward ; This Man also agrees as to the great fear expressed in General from seing our Fleet so Strong, and that being only single Prisoners on board, and pretending not to understand French, they Spoke freely before them, Complaining much of their Situation, and that it woud be as agreable to them to be in Prison in England, as to remain in the service And further say that two Eighty Gun Ships were Launched whilst they were at Brest. That the Windows of the Prison looked into the Harbour from whence by Stealth they discovered many things.

The Lieutenant of a Jersey Privateer taken by the Fleet in a Prize, before the Action was in a Frigate during the time, and was allowed to be upon Deck, who Confirmed the account of the killed and wounded, and Said much Discontent appeared among the Officers of his Ship the next Day, and further told them that he saw three Capital Ships so mixed with ours and seemingly so Disabled that he judged they must have Struck cou'd we have Spared some Ships to stay by them they expressed great fear of our Fire Ships. That being once in Prison they Spoke French but denied being of Jersey, as they understood they treated these Islanders without mercy ; That many of the Petty Officers and

Seamen came to see them in Prison, before they Sailed this last time, who expressed a great fear, least they should again meet with the English Fleet, and that they were told by the Crew of the Fox Frigate, that they had mostly kept in the Bottom of the Bay; These Men Complain much of the small allowances of Provisions; And say that the intended attack of these Islands was the general talk in the Fleet, and by those who came to see the Prisoners, pretending that the Nation was provoked to it by the Mischief they done to their Trade; They further say that the French Fleet was returned to Brest, and the Men of the Fox Frigate, told them that they had kept in the Bottom of the Bay not meaning to find out Mr. Keppel.

No. 2432—*Lord George Germain to the King.*

Lord George Germain has the honor of acquainting your Majesty that Captain Wilson who came with the enclos'd dispatches, from New Yorke, says that eight days before he sailed Admiral Parker with six ships of the line arrived at Sandy Hook, and that Two victualling Fleets from Corke were also safely arrived.

KEW LANE, *October* 13*th* 1778, $\frac{m}{50}$ *pt.* 3 P.M.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2433—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

[13 *October*, 1778.]

Lord Sandwich has the honour to send to your Majesty by the bearer Lieutenant Dodd (who is just arrived from Halifax in the Cabot Brig. under his command) Admiral Byron's dispatches.

If your Majesty will honour Mr. Dodd with an audience, you will find that he has many interesting particulars to mention not included in these Dispatches, the worst news he has to tell, is that we have been obliged to burn 4 frigates of 32 guns, to prevent their falling into Monsr. D'Estaing's hands.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2434—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 209.

WINDSOR CASTLE,
Oct. 13*th* 1778.
$\frac{m}{20}$ *pt.* 6 P.M.

I have no doubt next Spring, Spain will join France but if we can keep Her quiet till then I trust the British Navy will be in a State to cope with both Nations; Lord North must feel as I do the noble conduct of the three fifty Gun Ships that with so much bravery have driven off Seperately Ships of far Superior Strength. I doubt not whenever it shall please the Almighty to permit an English fleet fairly to engage any other, a most comfortable issue will arise; Armed as France and Spain now are no peace could either be durable or much less expensive than a State of War; it must Now be decided whether Britain or France must yield; I trust in the justness of my cause and the bravery of the Nation, and You may depend on my readiness to cheath [*sic*] the Sword whenever a permanent tranquility can be obtained which certainly the present moment is not the one for accomplishing.

No. 2435—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 210.

KEW, *Oct.* 16*th*, 1778.
$\frac{m}{55}$ *pt.* 9 P.M.

The letter from Mr. Wier certainly states the want of Provision in a very pressing manner, but should the Victuallers under convoy of the British King arrive safely I should hope that would greatly change the appearance; and that the farther Supplies ordered by the Treasury will in convenient time remove the Commissary's apprehensions; one comfortable opinion is suggested by the happy arrival of all these Fleets, namely that the Americans must have fewer Privateers than the last Year or these could not have without some loss reached their destination.

No. 2436—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 211.

QUEENS HOUSE,
Oct. 23*rd* 1778,
$\frac{m}{45}$ *pt.* 11 A.M.

There cannot be the smallest doubt that Lord Stormont cannot have a competitor for the Office vacated by the death of the Duke of Queensbury, considering the Embassies he has with distinction filled Lord North cannot too soon therefore give him notice that he is appointed, and apprise Lord Suffolk that the necessary Warrant may be prepared. Undoubtedly from the Duke of Northumberland's state of health and Years, he is not capable of attending much as Master of the Horse; but I am so desirous of filling it with a man of some standing and that may be agreable personally to Lord North that I very willingly pass over those objections and authorise Lord North when He shall see that Duke tomorrow if he mentions that wish to encourage him in it.

No. 2437—*Lord Amherst to the King.*

Most humbly submitted to His Majesty, The proposed Escorts for His Majesty's going to Coxheath Camp, and return to The Queen's House.

If His Majesty approves the same number of Horse Guards & Grenadiers may be ordered to Maidstone & Leeds Castle, as was ordered to Rumford, Brentwood & Horndon Place, and if His Majesty should not think it necessary to send an equall Detachment to Sevenoaks & Montreal, an officer with sixteen of the Horse Guards, and eight Grenadiers may be sufficient.

The Purveyor (Angel) is gone to day to Leeds Castle, to see what is wanting and to make the necessary Arrangement, he will provide every thing, Plate & Linnen excepted and will report what may be requisite of those Articles, which need not be sent 'til the later end of next week. AMHERST.

Near WHITEHALL, 24 *Oct* 4 P.M. [1778].

No. 2438—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 212.

KEW, *Oct. 25th*, 1778.

LORD NORTH—The very sluggish Attendance after Easter the last Session of Parliament has very much filled my mind on the near approach of the next, and the conviction that it is much easier to prevent evils than to redress them as they arise, make it highly proper for me to put before Your eyes the necessity of some Plan being adopted to effect an Early and Constant attendance during the next Session.

Your zeal for my Service will, I am certain, make You without loss of time, chalk out some mode for this purpose which at the Same time that my Service requires it, will also be a great ease to Yourself, and not put You under the dilemma I have often seen of doubting on pressing occasions whether a sufficient Attendance would be found. You may depend on my warmest Support in this business and that my disapprobation shall be shewn in the fullest manner to those who swerve from their duty when a sistematical plan is formed. I therefore trust that by consulting those You usually employ in that branch, You may be able in the course of the Week to lay such a plan before me. The evils that may arise if this is not done are so very apparent, that it would be a kind of doubt of Your penetration to be taking up Your time in stating them.

Draft, and fair copy in the King's handwriting.

No. 2439—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has received the honour of his Majesty's commands. He had the honour last year to state to his Majesty the slackness of the attendance given by the Members of Parliament, & the little assistance he received, from those who did attend, and he mention'd at the same time his apprehensions that the Parliamentary support would be worse this Session than the last. He still continues of that opinion, but will see whether anything can be done to secure a more active & zealous concurrence from

the Members of the House of Commons. As every thing was done last year, which used to be done when the House of Commons gave the most constant attendance, & the most uniform support, He is much afraid that nothing will mend the matter, but a change in the appearance of Public affairs or a change in the administration. He will, however, in obedience to his Majesty's commands, consider if any method can be taken, which may give hopes of a better support this year than the last.

Bushy Park, *Octr.* 25*th* [1778].

No. 2440—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

Hampton Court,
Octr. 26*th* 1778.

Lord Sandwich has the honour to inform your Majesty of the arrival of Ld. Howe in the Eagle, & of sending his Lordship's, Admiral Gambier's, & Admiral Byron's dispatches brought by that conveyance.

Lord Sandwich takes the liberty to enclose the private letters he has received from Mr. Gambier, that your Majesty may have the fullest information of everything that has passed; tho' he is aware that the stile of those letters, and some parts of their contents, are not well calculated for your Royal inspection.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2441—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

Lord Sandwich has the honour to inform your Majesty that since the departure of the Messenger from hence, Captain Duncan, Ld. Howes' Captain, is come here, & Ld. Sandwich has ventured to send him to Windsor least your Majesty should wish to ask any questions relative to what has lately passed in America. Captain Duncan brings word that the Berwick, Sandwich, & Ramillies, part of Admiral Keppell's squadron, were allready arrived at Spithead.

Hampton Court,
Octr. 26*th*, 1778.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2442—*Lord George Germain to the King.*

Lord George Germain has the honor of sending your Majesty the Dispatches brought by Lord Howe and Governor Johnstone. The account of Major General Grey's Expedition is very satisfactory and seems to deserve your Majesty's approbation. The Letter from the Commissioners is long, but from the Stile and matters is not unworthy of your Majesty's attention.

KEW LANE, *October 26th* 1778, $\frac{m}{5}$ *pt.* 3 P.M.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2443—*Lord Amherst to the King.*

Your Majesty's Commands from Windsor Castle were delivered to me at 10 o'Clock last night. I have seen Angel who is returned from Leeds Castle, and has not the least doubt of the Room, which is upwards of *32* Feet long, and sufficiently wide, answering very well for a Table to contain Your Majesty's Suite, the General Officers, Colonels & Peers of the Camp, agreeably to your Majesty's pleasure : Angel is gone to Town to prepare every thing in due time, and will report to me to morrow morning, the particulars that I may lay them before Your Majesty : I humbly imagine as the Room is long, a long Table may be the best, if the Room was more on the Square the Cross Table would answer, and the Horse Shoe would contain more, than any other Shape ; the last can be adopted if Your Majesty should prefer it, and I will know more particularly to this Point of Angel to morrow, that I may report it to Your Majesty and receive your Commands.

There are six very good Beds & Bed-Chambers in Leeds Castle, Room in abundance for any Field Beds to be put up : I have not the Dimensions of the Rooms, as Angel did not bring them, but I shall have them to lay before Your Majesty.

As I received yesterday a Letter from Mr. Martin (Mr. Fairfax's Nephew and the Clergyman of the Parish) I enclose it with a Copy of what I answered to Mr. Fairfax, that Your Majesty may be informed of all that has passed. AMHERST.

MONTREAL 27*th Oct.* 1778.
8 *o'Clock* A.M.

No. 2444—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 212.

KEW, *Nov. 2nd* 1778.

Lord North Cannot be surprised that at an hour when this Country is cirrounded with impending evils, I should think myself highly culpable if I did not to the utmost of my ability prepare against them; on that account I the last Week insisted on Your forthwith preparing a Plan on Paper for obtaining an handsome Attendance on the Opening of the Session, and a continuance of it during the Setting of Parliament; this You promised to draw up; yet the Week has elapsed without Your producing it, and Your aversion to decide would lead You to postpone it till too late, unless forced by me to what I look upon not only as essential to the conducting public affairs with credit, but as necessary for Your own ease of mind; I therefore must insist on Your laying Your thoughts on that Subject before the Cabinet at Your meeting on Thursday, and I have just wrote to the two Secretaries of State to acquaint them You have my directions for that purpose. Indeed, my Dear Lord, though the present Scene is not very clear, yet with activity, decision and zeal, things may soon wear a very different appearance.

Draft and fair copy in the King's handwriting.

No. 2445—*Mr. Robinson to the King.*

Mr. Robinson has the Honour to transmit to Your Majesty, for your perusal, Drafts of Letters to Sir Henry Clinton, and to Mr. Wier, with several inclosures relative to the Returns and States of Provisions, entering into that Business fully and at large. Mr. Robinson not being certain, whether Lord North laid before your Majesty the late Letters from Sir Henry Clinton, and from Mr. Wier; Mr. Robinson humbly begs leave to add those to the others, as also Drafts of the last Letters from the Treasury Board to Sir Henry Clinton, and to Mr. Wier, in further explanation to your Majesty of the proceedings lately had relative to the supplying the Armies in America with Provisions.

Mr. Robinson apprehends that Lord North wou'd lay before your Majesty the Extracts and Minutes made relative to the House of Commons, and Parliamentary Affairs: If in these Suggestions, or in the Mode of proceeding in this Business, or in anything relative to it, Mr. Robinson has presumed too much, or has any ways erred in it, He implores your Majesty's Forgiveness, and trusts in your Majesty's Goodness for pardon; and he humbly hopes that your Majesty will be graciously pleased to believe that he has not offended intentionally.

Mr. Robinson seeing, as he did, the Languor of a long, tedious Session last year ill attended, feeling the anxious pain, daily almost, of expectations of being beat on material Questions, and dreading the fatal Consequences which must arise from a like Languor and ill attendance this Session; many Fears had long brooded in His Mind with painful Anxiety and Apprehensions, and he strove to have such Measures adopted, as should prevent the Evils, and insure Success to your Majesty's Measures.

Mr. Robinson not being able to obtain his Wishes in this respect, and not daring to attempt a Communication of his Fears to your Majesty by writing; He was compelled to take the Mode of doing it which has been pursued, thinking that he had better incur the blame of presumption and Audacity rather than that your Majesty's Affairs should in the least suffer: If he shall be graciously pardoned for his Offence, and any Good shall result to your Majesty's Government, he will be most happy, and in the pleasing Reflection that he has done his Duty, reap the highest Reward.

Parliament Street,
5th November, 1778.

No. 2446—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has just received a key from Mr. de Grey of a Box which he understands to have been carried to his Majesty at Kew; Lord North imagines that Lord George Germain's Box will bring his Majesty an account of the dispossessing the French of St. Pierre & Miquelon, of which Mr. Robinson has received information in a letter from his Brother. No particular or remarkable circumstance appears to have attended the capture,

so Lord North supposes that the islands surrender'd at the first summons.

Lord North having sent letters to Lord Algernon Percy & Lord Clive desiring them to move & second the address, has received an answer from the latter excusing himself. He proposes to apply to Mr. Talbot & Mr. Campbell, but he does not know whether the former may not decline it from observing the marks of dislike towards the present administration that Lord Talbot has often publickly shewn.

Lord North has sent out a second set of letters to the Members of the House of Commons pressing their attendance on the day of the meeting, & intends to have a meeting of the placemen etc. on Friday, in which he will request their support, but, though in obedience to his Majesty's commands, he will do every thing to carry his business through the House of Commons, he can, by no means, answer for the success of it. He believes that the attendance will be more slack this year than the last; The strong measures that must be taken, the want of confidence & attachment to the present ministry, grounded on the bad success of their measures, together with some other circumstances, will, Lord North fears, render the Members of Parliament very indifferent to the cause of Government, & much inclined to avoid doing their duty in Parliament.

Lord North, upon the positive injunctions of his Majesty, remains in a situation for which he was never fit, & for which he is now less fit than ever, but he can never pretend to like it, or hold any other language than his wish of retiring. He has already declared to his Majesty, & thinks himself obliged in conscience to repeat the declaration, that he considers his continuance in Government in his present station as highly prejudicial to His Majesty's affairs, &, therefore, he intreats his Majesty to continue his search after a better arrangement.

There are two points, which Lord North has the honour of submitting to his Majesty's consideration, & which he conceives very important for the government of this country.

The first is, That the Public business can never go on as it ought, while the Principal & most efficient offices are in the hands of persons who are either indifferent to, or actually dislike their situation.

The second is, That in critical times, it is necessary that there

should be one directing Minister, who should plan the whole of the operations of government, & controul all the other departments of administration so far as to make them co-operate zealously & actively with his designs even tho contrary to their own.

Lord North conceives these two rules to be wise & true, & therefore, thinks it his duty to submit the expediency of his Majesty's removing him as soon he can, because he is certainly not capable of being such a minister as he has described, & he can never like a situation which he has most perfectly disliked even in much better and easier times.

Having said thus much, & acquitted his conscience, he acquiesces in his Majesty's pleasure, though he can not foresee much benefit to his Majesty's affairs under the present system.

Although Lord North will patiently wait his Majesty's pleasure, He thinks it his duty to suggest to his Majesty what vacancies there may be easily made at present, if his Majesty should think proper to alter his administration in any respect. There would be vacated without difficulty The first Lord of the Treasury, The Chancellorship of the Exchequer, The Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, & The Secretary at War; The Mastership of the Horse is already open, & Lord Dartmouth & (as Ld. North is inform'd) Lord Talbot would willingly give up their offices for an arrangement that should be agreable to his Majesty, Lord North would not have thought it consistent with his duty, or his other declarations, not to have reminded his Majesty that he would at this time have the command of seven of the first offices in the country, if he should think proper to release Lord North from his present situation.

As to the Wardenship of the Cinque Ports, although Lord North for particular reasons, prefers it to any office in his Majesty's disposal, Yet he should think himself unworthy of his Majesty's favour if he were not ready to give it up, whenever it can be made convenient for an arrangement materially serviceable to his Majesty's affairs.

Lord North has sometimes had thoughts of proposing to his Majesty a measure which would lessen his own fatigues a good deal, & introduce a most able servant into an important department of his Majesty's government; It is, to resign the office of Chancellor of the Exchequer to Mr. Jenkinson, continuing still in

the House of Commons as first Lord of the Treasury; His Majesty's affairs, in the department of the finances, would certainly be much better carried on in this manner, & Lord North would on that account bear it for one Session, but if this idea should please his Majesty, Lord North would hope for his Majesty's promise that he should quit the Treasury at the end of the Session, because, though the Public Affairs would be greatly benefited by it, Lord North would, in a short time become a cypher at his Board.

Lord North hopes that his Majesty will have the goodness to pardon the length, & inaccuracy of this note, which is much more tedious that Lord North expected when he begun it, but flows from a heart truly zealous for his service, which he should never wish to quit, unless he were convinced that he is not equal to a station of such consequence as that where his Majesty's goodness has done him the honour to place him.

Bushy Park, *Novr.* 10, 1778.

$\frac{m}{55}$ *pt.* 12 P.M.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2447—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 213.

Kew, *Nov.* 10*th* 1778.

$\frac{m}{52}$ *pt.* 2 P.M.

On coming this instant home, I have found Lord North's box containing a letter that is certainly filled with sentiments o affection to my person though in other respects not very agreable to my wishes. He cannot be surprised that engaged in many difficulties, and an opposition to Government formed of Men that if they could succeed would restrain no one of the absurd ideas they have sported, I think it the duty my personal honour of those in public Station must prompt them with zeal to make every effort to assist me who have unreservedly Supported them.

Draft and fair copy in the King's handwriting.

No. 2448—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has been prevented by his attendance at the Court of Excheqr. & by very material & pressing business at the Treasury from paying his duty at St. James's to-day, but takes the liberty of sending to his Majesty a very important private letter from Ireland, & a paper from Mr. Hallowell, part of which gives us hopes that our Fleet of Victuallers from Cork has not been taken.

Lord North has the honour of adding another letter of intelligence more credible from the probability of the information than the authority of the informer.

Novr. 12 [1778], ½ *pt.* 4 P.M.

No. 2449—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 214.

QUEEN'S HOUSE, *Nov.* 12, 1778.
$\frac{m}{50}$ *pt.* 6 P.M.

The private letter from Ireland transmitted by Lord North deserves the maturest consideration ; experience has thoroughly convinced me that this Country gains nothing by granting to Her Dependencys indulgences, for opening the Door encourages a desire for more which if not complied with causes discontent and the former benefit is obliterated. It seems natural to conclude from Mr. Hallowell that the Victuallers are safely arrived at New York ; the intelligence from France seems natural ; the misfortune is we have more to defend than we have Ships ready to employ ; if Parliament can addopt Some mode of raising a Sufficient number of Men for the Navy and Army ; I doubt not that our numberless difficulties with Spirit, Assiduity and attention would soon vanish.

No. 2450—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of sending his Majesty a List of the gentlemen who were last night at his house in Downing Street. Lord Beauchamp had sent an excuse, & Lord Frederick Campbell is in Scotland. Lord North hopes that the persons then present will support with cordiality, but can not help expressing his fears that the attendance in the House of Commons will not be so constant & cordial as the situation of affairs requires.

Lord North returns his Majesty his most humble thanks for his last note. He will certainly bear patiently the misery he feels from continuing in office because it is his Majesty's pleasure that he should continue there, but he thought it his duty to state to his Majesty, & he thinks it his duty once more to repeat that he is conscious & certain that he has neither the authority nor abilities requisite for the conduct of his Majesty's affairs at this time, & that he has every reason to apprehend that his Majesty will essentially prejudice his own & the public cause by obliging him to remain where he is. Lord North thinks that a change might be made to the benefit of his Majesty without having recourse to the opposition. But, as his Majesty is bent against every alteration of administration, He will continue to submit to every personal distress that he suffers from his situation, hoping from his Majesty's goodness & justice, that, after having ventured so freely, & frequently, to deliver his opinion, no part of the mischiefs which the Public will probably suffer from Lord North's continuance in office, will be imputed to him.

Lord North had yesterday a visit from Lord Powys, who desired him to express his gratitude to his Majesty for his proposed liberality to Lady Powys, & his wish that the Pension might be paid to a Mr. Ashby, whom Lord Powys has fixed upon as trustee for his Mother. As the Pension is to be private, there seems to be no difficulty in complying with his Lordship's request.

Downing Street, *Novr.* 14 [1778].

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2451—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 214.

KEW, *Nov.* 14*th* 1778.
m pt. P.M.

It has ever been a certain position with Me that firmness is the Characteristick of an Englishman, that consequently when a Minister will shew a resolution boldly to advance that He will meet with support, consequently Lord North's report that the Gentlemen who attended the meeting in Downing Street last night will cordialy support during the next Session is what I expected, and if on the opening of the Session the Speech from the Throne is penned with firmness, and shews no other end is sought but benevolence to all the branches provided the Empire is kept Entire, and invite all who will cordially unite in that point and in a resolution to withstand the natural Enemies of the Country, and the Ministers in their Speeches shew that they will never consent to the Independency of America and that the assistance of every man will be accepted on that ground I am certain the cry will be strong in their favour.

I should have concluded here, had not the letter contained the following expression that Lord North *is conscious and certain that he neither has the Authority nor Abilities requisite for the conduct of Affairs at this time*, the word *authority* puzzles me, for from the hour of Lord North's so handsomely devoting himself on the retreat of the D. of Grafton, I have never had a political thought which I have not communicated unto him, have accepted of persons highly disagreable to me, because he thought they would be of advantage to his conducting public Affairs, and have yielded to measures my own opinion did not quite approve; therefore I must desire to have an explanation in writing on what is meant to be conveyed by that word, as also that *a change might be made to the benefit of my service without having recourse to the Opposition*; this is quite a new thought, and till Lord North explains what that means, the idea is quite incomprehensible to me.

If Lord North can see with the same degree of enthusiasm I do, the beauty, excellence, and perfection of the British Con-

stitution as by Law Established, and consider that if any one branch of the Empire is alowed to cast off its dependency, that the others will infalably follow the Example, that consequently though an arduous struggle that is worth going through any difficulty to preserve to latest Posterity what the Wisdom of our Ancestors have carefully transmitted to us; he will not allow despondency to find a place in his breast, but resolve not merely out of Duty to fill his post, but will resolve with Vigour to meet every obstacle that may arise he shall meet with most cordial Support from me; but the times require Vigour or the State will be ruined.

Draft and fair copy in the King's handwriting.

No. 2452—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North, in obedience to his Majesty's command, has the honour of explaining some expressions in the last note which he wrote to his Majesty.

By the expression "*of his being conscious that he had not the authority requisite for the conduct of affairs at this time*" He meant only that he has not that authority of character, that ascendancy which must procure weight and deference to his opinions; This he can never have, as it can only be acquired by a degree of abilities much superior to his, & yet his Majesty will remember how important Lord North stated in a former letter, such a character to be for the direction of the public councils at such a time as this.

With respect to the other expression to which his Majesty does him the honour to allude all that he meant to convey was that there are, among his Majesty's confidential servants, men who are much better qualified to preside in his councils than Lord North. This is his opinion of almost all of them, but the person best qualified for that Station now in the Cabinet appears to him to be Lord Suffolk.

Lord North is much concern'd to learn that he has ever recommended to his Majesty persons, whom his Majesty disapprov'd, & whom it was disagreable to him to prefer, but he

assures his Majesty, that he never recommended a single person for preferment to please himself or to answer any view of his own, but that in every instance he was actuated by his wish to promote his Majesty's service. If his Majesty has yielded to measures proposed by Lord North contrary to his Majesty's own opinion, it is, Lord North fears, an additional proof of Lord North's unfitness for his present station, but, he hopes, that his Majesty does not suppose that he intends to run away from it, till he has his Majesty's permission. Lord North doubts not that many persons hold bolder language to his Majesty than he does, & represent in strong terms Lord North's want of firmness, but it has so happen'd, that nobody has gone through so many struggles as Lord North has, & that bolder counsellors have retired in easier times; Lord North embark'd in the Ministry by his Majesty's command. By the same gracious command, he has continued ten years in a most troublesome station, against his inclination, & without a view of bettering himself in the least degree either in point of honour or of fortune. While he remains under the same much rever'd injunction, He will serve his Majesty with all the firmness & resolution he is master of; but he must declare that he finds his spirits, strength, memory, judgment & abilities sensibly & considerably impair'd, & he will never be guilty of so foul a crime as to conceal from his Majesty truths so important to his service. If in this Session, as in the last, he should stand alone, & unsupported by those, who complain of his want of firmness, He will endeavour to the best of his power to do his duty. On this subject he will trouble his Majesty no more, but will leave it entirely to his Majesty to determine what is best for the Public good.

Bushy Park, *Novr.* 16, 1778.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2453—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

Admiralty, *Nov.* 24*th* 1778.

Lord Sandwich has it in his power to give your Majesty a particular account of what passed last night at the meeting at

Lord Norths, and afterwards in an interview between him & Mr. Rigby. He can allso tell your Majesty something very interesting that he learnt yesterday from Sir Hugh Pallisser.

Lord Sandwich begs to know whither your Majesty chuses he should attend you on these points this day, before or after the reading the Speech at the Queens house; which he understands is to be at two o'clock.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2454—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

Lord Sandwich has the honour to inform your Majesty that Mr. Robinson has just now seen Ld. North, that he finds him much better disposed to go on & act with Spirit than he has hitherto been, and that he hopes to bring him to write to your Majesty this evening to ask your permission to recommend Mr. Jenkinson for Secretary at War.

Admiralty,
Nov. 24th [1778], 50 *minutes past* 4.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2455—*Lord North to the King.*

[24 *November*, 1778.]

Lord North has the honour, as there is now no longer any hope of an accession to the administration, to propose to his Majesty for Secretary at War either Mr. Jenkinson, or Lord Beauchamp; He does not know whether the first would accept. He thinks that the latter would, But the first would not by accepting put Lord North to the difficulty of a new arrangement at the Board of Treasury.

Downing Street, *Tuesday eveng.*

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2456—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 216.

QUEENS HOUSE,
Nov. 24th 1778.

It would certainly appear rather extraordinary if the office of Secretary at War remained long out of the House of Commons during the Sitting of Parliament, therefore Lord North cannot too soon at least settle the arrangement as there is a General Officer who now is at Council, it is of less personal consequence to me who Succeeds to Lord Barrington, I therefore fully authorise Lord North to offer it in the first place to Mr. Jenkinson, and if he declines to Lord Beauchamp.

No. 2457—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 216.

QUEENS HOUSE,
Nov. 26th 1778. $\frac{m}{-}$ P.M.

Lord North will receive with this the two letters received from Mr. Forth, whose Accounts I do not lay more trust on than on the News papers, but cannot help reading them with some degree of curiosity as I do those daily productions of untruths.

No. 2458—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 217.

QUEENS HOUSE,
Nov. 27th 1778.
$\frac{m}{34}$ *pt.* 8 A.M.

The handsome Majority at opening this Session of Parliament cannot fail of giving that kind of credit to Administration that if activity is Shewn in pressing forward such proposals as may furnish the Money and Men necessary for the many Services that are required I should hope the Session will be much more pleasant than was expected.

No. 2459—*Lord George Germain to the King.*

Lord George Germain has the honor of acquainting your Majesty that Major Drummond besides the intelligence contained in the Dispatches informs Lord George that the detachment under Major General Grant was under sail the 27th of October passing the narrows, Commodore Hotham convoy'd them with Three Ships of the Line besides Frigates.

Pall Mall, *Novr.* 27*th* 1778. 2 *m pt.* 9 P.M.

No. 2460—Officers of Admiral Keppel's Fleet.

[In Lord Sandwich's handwriting.]

[*November*, 1778.]

Sir Robert Harland—Has behaved with great decency & moderation, & tho' attached to Admiral Keppell has very lately expressed great approbation of Sir Hugh Pallissers behaviour & general character.

Admiral Campbell—of late grown warm in favour of Admiral Keppell.

Captain Rowley—has behaved with great moderation & kept clear of cabals.

Captain Edwards—Talks rather too much, but not particularly attached to either side. Grows old, & not so fit as formerly for active service.

Captain Digby—a most excellent officer, sensible, prudent & discreet, laments the unhappy divisions in the fleet which he attributes principally to the insinuations of patriots to whom Admiral Keppell has listened too much: is warm in his disapprobation of Captain Berkeley whose indiscretion has set everything on fire.

Captain Ross—one of the most violent men in the fleet, dissatisfied with every thing; favours Admiral Keppell.

Captain Hood—very adverse to Admiral Keppell.

Sir Chaloner Ogle—a brave man but whimsical, & not much attended to by either side; disposed towards opposition.

Captain Walsingham—Has behaved well as an officer in a ship miserably manned, busy, meddling, of a trifling disposition, not steady on either side, but leaning to Admiral Keppell in consequence of his Politicks.

Sir John Lindsay—has behaved with much decency & avoided Cabals, tho' inclined to favour Mr. Keppell; it is said that he has thoughts of leaving the service for want of health.

Captain Clements—a gallant man, but discontented & full of complaints, attached to Admiral Keppell.

Captain Peyton—a very valuable officer, upon bad terms with Admiral Keppell.

Captain Allen—shewed much gallantry in action, and alertness in the equipment of his ship; rather an awkward man in some things, not particularly attached to either side.

Captain Laforey—a professed follower & dependent of Mr. Keppell's much given to talking & writing; he is however an excellent officer.

Captain Maitland—very good officer, has not mixed in disputes.

Captain Jonathan Faulkner—considering he is Admiral Keppell's Captain, has behaved with moderation, & is naturally a quiet man & good officer.

Sir Richard Bickerton—very sorry for the differences that have arisen in the fleet, seems to lean to Sir Hugh Pallisser, has no patience when he speaks of Captain Berkeley.

Captain Leveson—Tho' much attached to Mr. Keppell, has kept himself out of all disputes, & shewn no partiality to either side; has attended closely to the duty of his ship & is perhaps one of the most valuable officers in the King's service.

Captain Robinson—a very quiet good man.

Captain Jervis—a good officer, but turbulent & busy, and violent as a Politician attached to Mr. Keppell.

Captain Duncan—a quiet man but a follower & dependent upon Mr. Keppell.

Sir Charles Douglas—a good officer, but particular in his manners, not professedly attached to either party.

Captain Cosby—connected with opposition & on that account led to favour Mr. Keppell.

Captain Goodall—behaved very gallantly in the action, & is an exceeding good officer & worthy man. Not eager on either side.

Captain Nott—a quiet man of middling capacity; attached to Admiral Keppell thro' whose recommendation he got his ship.
Captain Cranston—a quiet man, has not meddled on either side.
Captain Stewart—behaved exceedingly well in the Action, is a very good officer & has kept himself clear of disputes of every kind, & shewn no particular attachment.
Captain Kingsmill—a good officer, but rather discontented & complaining, has not, however, shewn any violence in the present disputes.
Captain Macbride—an exceeding troublesome, busy, violent man; very bold but with very little understanding. Reckoned an active officer & much patronized by Admiral Keppell.
Ld. Mulgrave—no better officer, has industriously avoided shewing his sentiments in the present business, seems to lean to Sr. Hugh Pallisser.
Ld. Longford—spoken well of as an officer by every body, promises to make a considerable figure in the service, has been very cautious with regard to the disputes in the fleet; is closely connected with Ld. Mulgrave.
Sir John Hamilton—an honest good man & a very valuable officer, troubles himself about nobody's business but his own.
Captain Beazley—attached to his Admiral Sir H. Pallisser.
Captain Prescot—attached to his Admiral Sr. R. Harland to whom he was recommended by Admiral Keppell.

No. 2461—*The King to Lord North.*

QUEENS HOUSE,
Nov. 30*th* 1778.
$\frac{m}{25}$ *pt.* 10 A.M.

A little feverish complaint has obliged me to call for the assistance of Sir Richard Jebb this morning who has put [me] to severe discipline to secure my being able to go on Wednesday to St. James's, Lord North will therefore give the D. of Northumberland notice that he cannot be presented before that day the New Secretary at War may as on former occasions vacat his Seat this day though he does not come to St. James's.

No. 2462—*The King to Lord North.*

QUEENS HOUSE,
Dec. 2nd 1778.
$\frac{m}{7}$ *pt.* 11 A.M.

LORD NORTH—My complaint is entirely removed, and I had dressed myself with an intent to appear this day at St. James's, but Sir Richard Jebb, has I believe very properly forbid my going out so cold a day as any fresh cold may bring on a relapse ; I therefore desire You will call here at any hour most conv[en]ient to You before Your attendance at the House of Commons becomes necessary.

No. 2463—*The King to Lord North.*

I cannot help just expressing my Satisfaction at the House of Commons having sate so much less time this day than Lord North had expected.

QUEENS HOUSE,
Dec. 2nd 1778. $\frac{m}{12}$ *pt.* 8 P.M.

No. 2464—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 217.

QUEENS HOUSE,
Dec. 4th 1778.
$\frac{m}{20}$ *pt.* 9 A.M.

Lord North's opinion that the intelligence received from Mr. Wentworth which I return, is full of matter but not all of it equally deserving of credit, seems fully justified on the perusal of it.

It being very probable that the necessary steps previous to Lord North's going to the Long Debate this day may prevent his coming to St. James's I cannot help adding that the answer from Spain and the mode addopted by Her to both Courts is as unexceptionable as if Her intentions were Sincere, if they are not

at least, it shews very clearly Her intention of taking an active part will not be so sudden as might naturally from the first communication have been expected.

No. 2465—*General Keppel to Lord Barrington.*

DOVER STREET,
Sunday, Dec. 6th, 1778.

MY LORD—Having been made acquainted by a letter from General Lord Amherst dated Nov. 12th " That the *Command* of the Lieut. Generals commanding in the Camps of Cock's Heath, and Warley *cease* on the Regiments arriving in Winter Quarters ", and having Yesterday received the last Return, and Report of those Corps that were immediately under my Orders, I must now beg leave to desire the favour of Your Lordship to lay me, with all possible Humility on my part, at the King's Feet, and entreat His Majesty's Permission for me to retire from the Staff: at the same time I must beg Your Lordship to assure His Majesty that He will always find me ready to receive and execute with chearfulness such commands as *His Majesty* shall be pleased to honor me with.

I have, etc. (Signed) W. KEPPEL.

Copy, in the King's handwriting.

No. 2466—*General Keppel to Lord Barrington.*

Private.

DOVER STREET,
Decemr. 6th 1778.

MY DEAR LORD—As His Majesty will probably inquire into the reasons of my declining Service any longer on the Staff, I must beg to rely on your Lordship's experienced friendship to acquaint the King that from the situation I was in all last Summer unsupported, uninformed of every thing in matters relating to the district, and the Troops that were entrusted to my care and command by His Majesty's Orders; and for want of that confidence & communication that I thought I had some right to expect where I was particularly concerned, & in the

Station I was in, makes it impossible for me to carry on the King's Service, with that zeal, and to that effect which my duty calls for, and which of course must be expected from me.

I assure you, My Lord, it is with the deepest concern and the utmost reluctance, especially at this period of time, to find myself indispensably obliged to take the step I now do ; But my feelings are such that when I see I can be of no utility to my Country, or cannot serve with the least credit to myself, I can no longer think of receiving emoluments from the Government that I consider myself undeserving of, for the reasons before stated.

No. 2467—*Mr. Robinson to the King.*

Mr. Robinson has the Honour to transmit to your Majesty a Letter which he has received just now from Mr. Wentworth at Calais, and he begs leave to add for your Majesty's perusal some papers which he has this Day received from Mr. Galway, late Speaker of the late legal Assembly of Pensylvania, and a warm ffriend of this Country, who has lately arrived from America, and has lost his all in the Service of this Country.

Mr. Robinson presumed to think it might not be disagreeable to your Majesty to be informed of the Sentiments of such a person, and therefore Mr. Robinson has ventured to send the papers, and anxiously hopes he shall not have done amiss.

Parliament Street,
9th Decr. 1778. 10/*m. p.* 10 P.M.

No. 2468—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

Admiralty,
Dec. 10*th* 1778.

Lord Sandwich has the honour to send to your Majesty a copy of Sir Hugh Pallisser's charge against Admiral Keppell ; & at the same time to inform your Majesty that he has seen Ld Hawke, who with every expression of duty to your Majesty, laments the impossibility of his presiding at the Court Martial ;

he being in constant pain, and from his infirmities unfit for any business that requires the least degree of attention.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2469—*The King to Lord Sandwich.*

QUEEN'S HOUSE,
Dec. 10*th* 1778.
$\frac{m}{47}$ *pt.* 6 P.M.

On the present very unpleasant business the Publick must have approved of Lord Hawke's Presiding; I am sorry his health gives him so fair a plea to decline; it will deserve some consideration whether Sir Thomas Pye ought not to take that Post of course or whether Sir Charles Hardie shall be ordered to Portsmouth, Sir Thomas Frankland and the D. of Bolton seem no ways fit to be sought out on this occasion; Admiral Forbes I should suppose unable to undertake the fatigue.

No. 2470—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 218.

QUEENS HOUSE,
Dec. 12*th* 1778,
m/55 *pt.* 8 A.M.

I am sorry to find the strange managed dispute between the two Admirals is to be canvassed in the House of Commons; but I think it may at the same time forward what seems much for the advantage of my Service the bringing Lord Howe to the head of the Board of Admiralty; for Administration will some how or other be too much mixed in this affair, unless a change is made in that Department.

Lord Barrington is to wait on Lord North, to know what is to be done for him; I therefore authorise You to make such a provision as You may think right, though it should be handsome it ought not to be extravagant.

No. 2471—*The King to Lord North.*

QUEENS HOUSE,
Dec. 13*th* 1778.
$\frac{m}{40}$ *pt.* 9 A.M.

Early this morning Mr. Worsley died, I think it right to apprize Lord North of it; who will in consequence of his former application I suppose recommend Mr. Keene, and vacat his Seat just before the recess.

No. 2472—*Lord Carmarthen to the King.*

HAMPSTEAD, *Dec.* 13.
1778.

SIR—The condescenscion with which your Majesty has frequently honord me, the different marks of your approbation with which in your own, Sir, & in the Queen's family I have been honourd, & the very gracious manner in which they have been conferred as they have ever met with the highest acknowledgement a dutiful & Loyal Subject could offer to the best of Sovreigns, so let me be permitted to say they have entitled your Majesty from that humanity which has ever distinguish'd your personal character, to the confidence of your afflicted Subjects of every Denomination.

Your Majesty will, I am sure, be shocked when you learn that Lady Carmarthen has by an imprudent conduct for ever forfeited the protection your Majesty & the Queen so graciously afforded her, the favor of her own family & the affection of mine, at the same time I take the liberty of mentioning this unfortunate affair to your Majesty, I would wish to be understood as troubling you Sir with this only in the Character of the most Dutiful of Subjects & at the same time most afflicted of husbands, so that if I can ever have an opportunity of being of service to this unfortunate Woman (which I will own, I shall ever wish to be) Your Majesty shall never have it in your power in this case at least, to charge with Inconsistency, Sir Your Majesty's most Devoted most Loyal & most Obedient Subject & Servant CARMARTHEN.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2473—*The King to Lord Carmarthen.*

QUEEN'S HOUSE, *Dec.* 14*th* 1778.

Lord Carmarthen, the regard I have always had for You made me much hurt on Your information that Lady Carmarthen has by an imprudent conduct forfeited Your affection; at the same time I admire Your wish of yet being of Service to Her. I cannot conclude without mentioning the having communicated Your letter unto the Queen who very strongly feels for You on this trying occasion; and how my heart bleeds for poor Lady Holdernesse, the purity of whose conduct might have served as so excellent an example; it is happy for You that Your Children are in such safe hands. G. R.

Draft, endorsed by the King.

No. 2474—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of returning the inclosed papers to his Majesty. No place or time for receiving the representations of the West India merchants & planters can be more proper than those which his Majesty has pointed out. Although the losses of the petitioners may in a degree be true, yet I can not think their complaints against the Ministry well founded, as they have had all the support we could afford, though from accidents, they have not received it in time. The Representation did not pass unanimously; It was opposed by several gentlemen, & amongst others, by the chairman, Sir Philip Gibbes.

Tuesday morng. Decr. 14 [1778 ?].

No. 2475—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 218.

QUEEN'S HOUSE,
Dec. 15*th* 1778.

$\frac{m}{46}$ *pt.* 8 A.M.

It is very irksome to me to find Lord North was detained so late at the House yesterday not on the business of

the day but on the Supporting or abandoning the American War.

In consequence of His Note yesterday I have given notice that I shall tomorrow give my Assent to the Bills now ready for that purpose.

The enclosed papers I received last night from the Lord Chamberlain, but would not return any answer untill I had communicated unto Ld North ; the paper should only have been entitled a Petition and not *Address* and Petition, I should think the directing it to be presented as I return from the House of Lords would be the best and [the] mode that would occasion the least parade.

No. 2476—*Lord Carmarthen to the King.*

Sir—I trouble your Majesty with this letter, merely to assure you Sir, how sensible I am of the honour of Your Majesty's most gracious & condescending letter, & to beg your Majesty will be convinced of my being at all times & in all circumstances, Sir Your Majesty's most grateful most Devoted & most Dutiful Subject & Servant Carmarthen.

Grosr. Sqre. *Dec.* 15, 1778.

No. 2477—*The King to Lord Hertford.*

Queens House, *Dec.* 15*th* 1778.

$\frac{m}{30}$ *pt.* 4 P.M.

Lord Hertford Is to acquaint Sir Philip Gibbs the Chairman of the Meeting of West India Planters and Traders that have drawn up the Petition that I will receive it as I pass through that they may deliver it as I pass tomorrow through the Privy Chamber on returning from the House of Peers ; the Chairman and some of the Committee will, I suppose, be thought sufficient attendance on the Occasion.

Draft, endorsed by the King.

No. 2478—*Mr. Robinson to the King.*

Mr. Robinson has the Honour to transmit to His Majesty, the Letter received by the Court of Directors from the president and Council of Bombay, of so late a Date as the 17th of June, relative to the State of the Mahratta Government. He also adds an Extract of the Advices from Bombay, as it contains some other Articles of Intelligence, of which the two last seem very material, since they shew how much the Company's Messenger who carried the orders for attacking Pondicherry, was before the French Messenger, and that there is reason to expect he wd. be at Madrass in the month of July, and to suppose, that the Attack wou'd be in August, since by the last Advices by Sea in the Month of March, Mr. Rumbold writes, that he would be drawing the Army towards Pondicherry, and would be forming them near there, to be ready in all Events.

PARLIAMENT STREET,
16*th Decr.* 1778.
10 P.M.

No. 2479—*Lord North to the King.*

SIR—I suppose that Lord Suffolk has apprized your Majesty of the pocket Book brought to me late on Friday Evening by two gentlemen, one a Clergyman & the other a surgeon, which they said they had found that evening in a court near St. Clement's Church. It contain'd very treasonable papers, partly in cypher, & alluding to a design against your Majesty's life, which was to be put into execution as your Majesty shou'd go to the playhouse in an evening through the alleys near Leicester Fields. The whole had very much the appearance of being fabricated for the purpose of giving an alarm, but whether the two persons who brought the pocket book are the inventors of the story, or whether they really found it is uncertain. They refer to several well-known persons for their characters & positively insist upon their having picked up the pocket book. All the papers with the book, were put into Sr. J. Fielding's hands on Saturday morning, who thinks the whole an invention to cause an alarm, & undertook in a short time to let us know the authors of it. I dare say that

in the course of this day or tomorrow we shall have a clear insight into this business ; In the mean time, if your Majesty can, without being remark'd, avoid going to the Theatre, I should humbly advise you to do so, as some attention is due even to the most improbable story of this kind, before the truth or falsehood of it has been verified.

I had yesterday a long conversation with Mr. Rice, by which I find that Lord Talbot will probably expect another office (of less value than his present office) as well as a peerage for his family, if he should resign the Stewardship. Upon this, & the rest of the arrangement proposed, I will have the honour of troubling your Majesty (either to-day or to-morrow morning) with my sentiments. I beg leave, with the utmost respect, & most dutiful attachment, to subscribe myself, Sir, Your most devoted & most obedient Subject & Servant, NORTH.

P.S. I inclose some important intelligence from Mr. Wentworth. N.

BUSHY PARK,
Decr. 21 [1778].

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2480—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 219.

QUEENS HOUSE, *Dec.* 21*st* 1778.
$\frac{m}{10}$ *pt.* 6 P.M.

Not having seen Lord Suffolk this day I had no intimation of the Pocket Book that was brought unto Lord North on Friday, untill the letter I received at St. James's from Lord North this day ; I rather Suppose it will turn out a scheme to allarm than a real design of Assassination ; it is certainly right to examine such things to the bottom even when no great credit is given to them. As to my own feelings they always incline me to put trust where alone it can avail in the Almighty Ruler of the Universe who knows what best suits His All-wise purposes, This being the Week I go to the Holy Communion, I had no thoughts of going unto the Play.

I shall not add anything concerning the Arrangement as I

understand I shall See Lord North on Wednesday by which time I trust His mind will be formed to Speak with more precision than when I conversed with Him on Friday ; for things were not in the smallest degree more advanced then, than when first broached by Lord Suffolk three weeks ago.

No. 2481—*Mr. Robinson to the King.*

Mr. Robinson has the Honour to transmit to your Majesty, the dispatch which was received yesterday from Mr. Wier, and also a private Letter from him to Mr. Robinson ; The State of Provisions varies but little from the last return, except that it appears, their Numbers are some what increased, and by a Calculation of their Stock in hand, they had on the 23rd day of November last 27 Days fflour & Bread ending the 20th day of December, Rice for 2 Days, carrying them to the 22nd day of December, Oatmeal, which in case of Necessity might be used as a Substitute for Flour for 57 days ending the 17th of February, and Beef and Pork for 81 Days ending the 12th of February next, so that it is hoped the Fleet which sailed from Cork the 12th of October, and which by the Accounts brought by the Lizard Man of War had been met some time early in November 200 Leagues from the Coast of America, wou'd, under the Blessing of Providence, arrive, before the Army cou'd be in want of further Supplies.

Mr. Robinson has this Morning received from Mr. Galway, other Copies of the papers which Mr. Robinson presumed to transmit to your Majesty which he will lay before Lord North, so that if your Majesty pleases, the former papers need not be returned ; Mr. Robinson also begs leave to add two other papers which Mr. Galway has given Mr. Robinson this Morning in addition to the first.

Mr. Robinson was extremely concerned that Your Majesty should have so much trouble with the Boxes from the Negligence of the Maker, Mr. Robinson begs leave now to send to Your Majesty, another Key, for Your Majesty's Use which opens all the Boxes Lord North has.

Treasury Chambers,
23*rd Decr.* 1778—20/*m p.* 12° M.

No. 2482—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of inclosing to his Majesty several papers relating to the Pocket Book brought to Lord North last Friday night one of which is a letter received to-day from Sr. John Fielding, which seems to throw some light upon the business, and some suspicion upon Mr. Close.

Treasury Chambers, *Decr.* 24, 1778.
$\frac{1}{2}$ *pt.* 2 P.M.

No. 2483—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 220.

Queens House, *Dec.* 24*th* 1778.
$\frac{m}{10}$ *pt.* 5 P.M.

By the perusal of the papers concerning the supposed assassination plot, it appears clear that either both the persons that came on Friday night unto Lord North, or at least one of them have framed this Scheme to get money, I rather encline to think it with the cognizance and consequently meant to the advantage of both.

No. 2484—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of sending some Warrants for his Majesty's signature if approved, & two Pamphlets. The longest at the desire of Mr. Eden, who brought it with him to England. It is the Trial of Mr. Lee, &, as Lord [North] believes, the only copy in the Kingdom. The smaller, at the desire of Mr. Andrew Sheath, who wish'd that his brother the Colonel's case might be submitted to his Majesty.

Downing Street, *Decr.* 27, 1778.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2485—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 221.

QUEEN'S HOUSE, *Dec. 28th* 1778.
$\frac{m}{59}$ *pt.* 6 P.M.

Lord North has, I suppose, this day received a fresh intimation of Lord Suffolk's determination to resign his present Employment; by the letter I have received I find him perfectly fixed on that measure; this consequently shows there is no time to be lost in fixing on his Successor. I owne every hour more and more convinces me that nothing can so effectually remove the hatred and faction occasioned in the Navy by the unhappy breach between the two Admirals as a new head of the Admiralty Board, particularly if of that Profession. In time of Peace I am not convinced whether Men of more general Education may not fill that Station as well; but in a War and more so in the present which is a Naval One it is highly advantageous to have in the Cabinet a person able to plan the most effectual manner of conducting it. Should Lord North on consideration be of this opinion, and think Lord Howe the best qualified for this Post, it would remove all that altercation which if he is not during the recess satisfied, will take up the time of Parliament from business more useful.

Draft and fair copy in the King's handwriting.

No. 2486—*Lord North to the King.*

SIR—By the inclosed letter from Lord Suffolk your Majesty will perceive that your conjecture was right about his pressing again to resign his present office, but your Majesty will perceive at the same time that he will consider himself as used unkindly, if he is not immediately placed in a situation as honourable, & less fatiguing than his present employment. His view is Lord Talbot's Staff, which can not be had with Lord Talbot's good will, unless your Majesty will create a new peerage, & grant a pension to some Peer now possess'd of a considerable situation, who will not esteem himself favour'd, but rather disgraced by

such a provision. If this arrangement does not take place, Lord Suffolk will be displeased, & then his resignation may have the appearance of a breach in the administration. If it does take place it will cost a new peerage, & a fresh charge on the Civil List of at least £3,000 pr. annum.

As to the other arrangement your Majesty mentions, it has it's advantages, & disadvantages. Under the first head may be reckoned, that the loss of Lord Suffolk in the administration will be replaced by a respectable addition in the person of Lord Howe. That the promises made to Lord Howe will be perform'd. That probably, all enquiry will be dropt, & a Ministry strengthen'd by new accessions may be expected to be more able than the present to withstand the storm which is ready to burst upon our heads, as soon as we shall receive the news that threatens us from the West Indies.

The Disadvantages will be these. We are certainly well able to defend ourselves with respect to the conduct of the War in America & every enquiry into that business will probably tend to leave more blame upon the Military Commanders than upon us, but the appointment of Lord Howe in this moment will certainly make us appear conscious of guilt, & we shall be thought to have bought off our accuser. Ld. Sandwich, though promoted, will consider his removal from the Admiralty, as a condemnation of the late conduct of that board & Lord George Germain certainly can not remain in office a moment after one of his accusers is introduced into the Cabinet. Whether Lord George can, in honour, at such a moment, accept of any favour from the Crown may be question'd ; If he cannot, a heavy charge of unfairness, & injustice will remain upon your Majesty's counsellors & every man be afraid of trusting them hereafter ; If he may with credit, & I should hope he may, accept of a mark of your Majesty's approbation, that mark must be considerable, & such as shall convey to the World that Your Majesty is satisfied with his services, & have consented to his retirement merely from the necessity of your affairs. He has ask'd at different times, the Wardenship of the Cinque Ports, & a Peerage, & I should think that his having ask'd any particular favour would render such a favour the most honourable to him. If your Majesty grants him the former, He will, probably, expect it with a salary equal to that which Lord Holdernesse enjoy'd ; If he

has a peerage, his last request, & which certainly would be the most honourable to him, It is highly to be apprehended that the Attorney General, & many other aspirers to peerages, would be out of humour, & that the promotion would not meet with a very general popularity. I do not know whether any thing else can be thought of for him, but whatever is given to him on such an occasion ought to be very creditable, & very distinguishing.

I have endeavour'd, in as few words as possible, to state to your Majesty the principal advantages & disadvantages of the arrangement proposed by your Majesty. I own myself under a good deal of difficulty to decide between them, but I shall be in Town tomorrow morning, when I will wait the honour of your Majesty's commands, in order to carry them into execution with all dispatch. Our situation is very critical & alarming, which, I humbly submit, can be the only reason to justify your Majesty in giving any attention to the proposed arrangements which are liable to such great & numerous objections. What remedy to our present difficulties even these arrangements can afford, may perhaps, be a matter of doubt.

I beg leave, with all humility & the most dutiful attachment, to subscribe myself, Sir, Your Majesty's most obedient & most devoted servant & subject, NORTH.

BUSHY PARK,
Decr. 31, 1778.

No. 2487—[?] *to the King.*

I have received from your Majesty since I left England the sum of £9,000 including 500 which was given me on leaving London, & of which 30 was paid to the Duke de La Valiere for books purchased before I left England of [*a word obliterated*] 4,750 has been spent for books &c. & the remainder has paid the expences of my travelling. The quantity of books I have purchased may be reckoned at between 14 & 15 th. Vol. as I find in the Catalogue 7,500 articles & the number of articles may always be doubled to calculate the number of Vol. I beg leave to observe to your Majesty, that I went abroad upon the refusal given to Dr. Askew, who ask'd 5,000 Guineas for his Library, which consisted of 4,000 Vols. these books were all valuable & scarce, but of little utility, & half of their number were already to be found in

your Majesty's collection. Dr. Askew's was a choice Cabinet, but Y. M's Library is a universal one. I have therefore extended my plan to every good book in every Language & upon every science, & have at the same time been able to procure the largest part of the articles that were wanting from Dr. A's collection. I have also endeavoured to perfect the body of Geography, which has been attended with a considerable expence. The Catalogue I offer to Y. M's inspection contains the titles of all the books I have bought with their prices, which still remains in the money of the countries where they were bought, the quantity of Business that crowded upon me upon leaving Paris not allowing me time to reduce them separately into English money. I have calculated the whole amounts to the sum I have before mentioned. I have been obliged to exceed the money in Mr. Couttes's hands about £100 for books very lately bought at sales in Holland & Germany.

No. 2488—*Memorandum by the King.*

[? 1778.]

Glasgow, McLeans, and the 70th to embark in the Clyde for Nova Scotia.

Glasgow	1,169	Offs. included	80	women	16	servants
McLeans	1,169	,,	80	,,	16	,,
70th	677	,,	60	,,	12	,,
	3,015					
Edinburg	1,169	,,	80	,,	16	,,
Murray's	1,169	,,	80	,,	16	,,
Campbell's	1,169	,,	80	,,	16	,,
	3,507					

to embark in the Clyde for Sir W. Howe's Army.

Gordon's	1,169
Seaford's	1,169
Mackenzie	1,169
McDonald	1,169
	4,676

Canada.

No. 2489—*Memorandum by the King.*

[*December* 1778.]

	Enlisted	Discharged	Dead	Deserted	Wanting to compleat. Serjeants	Corporals	Drummers	Privates	Total
1st Division of Marines, 1778, Oct. 25th	34	0	0	3	28	35	4	560	627
Portsmouth 24th	3	6	3	6	29	26	4	473	532
Plymouth 23rd	1	0	0	0	36	41	29	578	684
Total	38	6	3	9	93	102	37	1611	1843
1st Division of Marines, 1778, Nov. 1st	17	1	0	2	28	33	4	548	613
Portsmouth, Oct. 31st	1	4	2	5	29	28	4	481	542
Plymouth 30th	29	0	0	0	36	40	25	554	655
Total	47	5	2	7	93	101	33	1583	1810
1st Division of Marines, 1778, Nov. 8th	19	3	0	3	28	34	4	533	599
Portsmouth 7th	20	1	7	10	28	29	3	481	541
Plymouth 6th	6	0	0	0	36	40	24	549	649
Total	45	4	8	13	92	103	31	1563	1789
1st Division of Marines, 1778, Nov. 15th	21	2	6	6	28	31	5	526	586
Portsmouth 14th	95	0	18	4	25	27	3	411	466
Plymouth 13th	9	1	2	2	36	39	26	544	645
Total	125	3	26	12	89	97	34	1481	1697
1st Division of Marines, 1778, Nov. 22nd	28	1	4	2	27	30	4	506	567
Portsmouth 21st	42	0	2	3	24	30	2	371	427
Plymouth 20th	11	1	17	2	37	39	26	552	654
Total	81	2	23	7	88	99	32	1429	1648
1st Division of Marines, 1778, Nov. 29th	33	0	2	3	25	32	2	479	538
Portsmouth 28th	2	14	5	1	24	29	4	389	446
Plymouth 27th	16	0	0	0	37	39	24	538	638
Total	51	14	7	4	86	100	30	1406	1622
1st Division of Marines, 1778, Dec. 6th									
Portsmouth 5th									
Plymouth 4th									

No. 2490—*The Bishop of Landaff to the King.*

[? 1778.]

The Bishop of Landaff, in the warmest sense of duty, begs leave most humbly to represent to The King, that he has been near nine years on the episcopal bench, with an eccelesiastical income, at no part of that period of more than £1,500, at present with only £1,050; that, he submitted, as became him, without complaint, in the promotion of two of his juniors; but, from His Majesty's goodness he is induced to hope that no junior, not already in possession of such a bishopric as the Bishop of Landaff would thankfully accept, will in future be preferred before him; and trusts he shall be forgiven if he presumes to express a wish, that, His Majesty will be graciously pleased to think of him for one of the more considerable sees, when such shall be vacant.

No. 2491—*State of the American Debt to 1st January* 1779.

1778	[In the King's handwriting.]			
Jany. 1st	The American Debt continued .	£56,914,294	10	7
	The above sum being the Amount of the American Debt on the 1st of Jany. 1778. We must add in order to find out the present Debt the Expences of the Current Year, which may be reasonably estimated at .	15,000,000	0	0
	To which we ought to add the Sum borrowed of France, said to be four Millions Sterling which at the Rate of Exchange settled by Mon. Gerrard and Congress viz. Six for one will			
1779	amount to	24,000,000	0	0
Jany. 1st	Total of the Debt	£95,914,294	10	7

N.B. The above Sum of American Debt being reduced to Sterling at 75 per Cent. the usual Exchange between Philadelphia or New York and London will amount in sterling to very near £55,000,000.

No. 2492.

Proposal for Covering and Reducing the Country as the British Army shall pass through it.

[? *January*, 1779.]

No Truth can be more certain than that the People of the Middle Colonies are tired of the Rebellion, and that having suffered every Species of Injustice and Cruelty under the pretended States and finding themselves fallen from the highest Degree of Happiness under His Majesty's Government to the most abject Slavery, are anxiously desirous of being restored to their former Obedience, are ready to co-operate with the King's Troops to effect that desirable Purpose.

Every Information from all Parts of the Middle Colonies, and particularly from those of Pennsylvania and New Jersey, demonstrate this Disposition.

Incessant Offers are made by Men of the first Weight and Influence in those Parts to raise the well-affected and Loyal in their several Districts and to form them into a Militia for the Defence of them, provided they are duly and properly *Authorized* to do it, and are furnished with *Arms and Ammunition.*

It has ever been the Case in these Colonies, when the British Troops have been in Motion and met with Success in their Operations, that the disaffected and even those Militia who have been possessed of Arms, have been so extremely intimidated, that a few Men with Arms might at those Junctures have disarmed them.

Every Information and the late Conduct of the Friends to Government shew that there can be no Danger in trusting them with Arms. They are perfectly known and clearly distinguished from the Disaffected and Rebellious. To take the Power out of the Hands of the Latter and place it in the Hands of the Former, subject to the Command and Disposition of the Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Forces, is certainly an Object of the First Importance in reducing this Country to Obedience.

Men of the first Weight and Influence on the Peninsula

between Delaware and Chesapeak, in the Jerseys, and in all Parts of Pennsylvania, have offered their Service in this Work by repeated Messages and Requests, that, in case they should be supported, or the Power of the chief Rebel Army kept off, they are resolved to raise the Loyalists in their Districts and Suppress the Rebellion in their particular Counties.

It is, upon these Principles, proposed;

That, in case the British Army should move after Washington, Messengers (who can be easily procured) be dispatched to the Men of Weight and Influence in such parts as the Juncture and Circumstances may render proper, with *Powers authorizing them* to set up the King's Standard and to embody the well-affected to Government in their respective Districts, and with them to *disarm and secure* those few Men who now oppress them and maintain the Rebellion against the Mother Country, and afterwards to remain as a Militia so long as the Commander in Chief shall think proper.

That where the People to be raised are in want of Arms and Ammunition, they should be supplied, which may be done without Risque or Difficulty.

That in order to carry this Arrangement into Execution, it will be necessary that some Person, whose Attachment to Government is indisputable, and in whom the People have Confidence, be appointed as Brigadier or General Commander of the Provincial Troops to be so embodied; that he be vested with full Power to raise, arm and command so many faithful Subjects as may be thought proper in each District, and with them to disarm the Disaffected and use every Means for suppressing the Rebellion and restoring the Country to His Majesty's Peace.

In the Execution of this Proposition Many Gentlemen of Weight and Influence are now ready to engage, and will immediately do so, if Washington's Army be defeated, dispersed, or removed over the Susquehannah or to the North of the Delaware, and the People can be assured of the Continuance of the British Troops to support them by pressing after the main Force of the Rebellion.

I have a List of these Gentlemen and the respective Counties in which they reside, in the several Provinces of Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland and New-Jersey.

Pennsylvania	Delaware	Maryland	New-Jersey
Philadelphia	New Castle	Kent	Burlington
Bucks	Kent	Queen Anns	Gloucester
Chester	Sussex	Dorset	Salem
Lancaster		Sommerset	Cumberland
York		Caroline	Hunterdon
		Talbot	Monmouth

Virginia

Accomack
Northampton.

N.B. Several of the Counties would raise 1000 Men; none under 500, so that we may safely count upon 500 on an average in each, making in the whole 10,000 Men.

No. 2493. [? *January*, 1779.]

A State of the Circumstances of Philadelphia when Sir William Howe took possession of it

[In the King's handwriting.]

Houses

Dwelling Houses Inhabited		5,460	
do. Uninhabited being deserted by the disaffected . . .		597	5,957 [*sic*]

Store Houses

Inhabitants

Male Inhabitants under 18 Years of Age . .	4,941	
Males above 18 and under 60 Years . . .	4,482	9,423
Females of all Ages		12,344
		21,767
Several Thousands of the well affected Inhabitants supposed to be not less than 4000 came in from time to time for Refuge to avoid the Several Fines laid on delinquents for not taking up arms and entering into the Service against Government		4,000
		25,767

The above number of 25,767 People with the British Army and Navy supposed in the whole to amount to near 55,000 Persons were fed and supplied with all manner of fresh provisions and every other necessary that the Country usually produced in great plenty by the well affected Inhabitants from without Sir William Howe's Lines; though Washington's Patroles and Picquets continually cirrounded those Lines, nor could the severest punishments such as Whipping and Branding some, and putting to Death others deter the people from Supplying the British Troops; and at the same time Washington's Army both Foot and Horse were starving for want of Provisions, the Inhabitants declining to Thrash out their grain or to fatten or kill their Meat, often concealing it, and running the risque of having them taken by force without price agreable to his proclamation, rather than carry it to him, or suffer him to have it prepared for him.

From the Head of Elk Sir William Howe's whole Army was chearfully supplied by the Inhabitants with all manner of fresh provisions both for his Foot and Horse untill he arrived at Philadelphia into which he besides carried a great quantity of fresh provisions, obtained only in a line of March, without ever sending out a foraging party except once and that was more to procure Horses than Provisions, the latter not being wanted.

All the disaffected Officers to the New States between Schuylkill and the Delaware and Northward of the City of Frentown about 30 miles distant were either brought in or drawn into New Jersey or the back part of Bucks by the Philadelphia Troop of Light Dragoons and two Companies of Refugees the latter of who were formed into Companies of Volunteers and served without Pay or Cloathing.

It was in Philadelphia and Pennsylvania the British Army was readily supplied with Waggons Horses and Carriages and every Article which Artists and Mechanics could make; and it has been from hence Washington has ever been supplied. General Braddock was obliged to procure Horses and Carriages from hence before he could proceed on his March to Fort Pitt, this Province producing more good Carriage Horses and large strong Carriages than all the rest of the Provinces. The Carriages in East New Jersey, New York, etc. are in general light and drawn by two small ordinary Horses capable of holding and drawing

only small Burthens. The Eastern Governments draw with Oxen for the most part which are sluggish for an Army.

No. 2494—*Lord Amherst to the King.*

[*January*, 1779.]

I have examined the several Papers of Mr. Galway and have no doubt, but his Account of the State of Philadelphia is very exact as to the Houses, Inhabitants, the well affected, and ill affected: his supposition that 25,767 People, with the British Army, were fed and supplied with all manner of fresh Provisions, I doubt not was so, in some degree, but I imagine they all received salt provisions, and I suppose Mr. Washington's Army, was starving at the same time, or in great distress: The State of the Debt I conclude is very exact, and is an enormous Sum for America.

In regard to the ensuing campaign: the present Position of the Troops being The Floridas reinforced on the Right, Nova Scotia reinforced on the left, Canada forming the Rear, and the Rivers Missisippi and St. Lawrence with the intervening Lakes forming a communication from right to Left on the Back of the Colonies, while New York and Rhode Island are maintained as Centrical Possessions: this seems to be, in my humble Opinion, the best position the Army can be in, and the natural offensive operations are 1*st* a Corps from Canada to penetrate by Lake Champlain and Lake George to Albany. 2*nd* a Corps from East Florida to penetrate into Georgia etc. and 3*rdly* a Corps from Nova Scotia to penetrate into Newhampshire, while the Troops at New York and Rhode Island might keep the center Provinces in Awe, and prevent their sending any Detachments to frustrate the operations of the above Corps. These are the Operations which seem to be right to carry on for reducing the Rebel Colonies, but on considering what has passed, and the present State of America, and that it is most probable, if no Centrick Inland Operations are undertaken, Mr. Washington will not be able to raise any number of Men, unless, possibly, they may be prevailed on for making an attack on New York, or Rhode Island. I should not think it advisable to attempt the first object viz. penetrating by Canada, the 2*nd* and 3*rd* may be

pursued as occasions may offer, but the principal operations, and such as seem the most likely for obtaining success, appear to be, by small Corps of Troops, with Ships of War, making attacks on every part of the American Coast, that is assailable from East Florida to Nova Scotia, by destroying their Shipping, preventing their Trade, cutting off Supplies, but not attempting to keep possession of any Place, that shall afterwards be abandoned or cannot be maintained, from which it would be better, only, to take Hostages for ensuring their good behaviour.

I wrote the above in the Country, but on coming to Town I communicated the Contents of the Papers to M. General Robertson and desired him to give me his opinion fully of the State of America and what he judged would be the best mode of carrying on the Operations to obtain the desired end. It is this moment, only, that I have received M. General Robertson's Paper, which I enclose to your Majesty and I beg leave to send this, without waiting to copy it fair, as I would not keep your Majesty's Papers to a later hour. AMHERST.

Near WHITEHALL,
½ *after* 9 P.M.

Enclosure.

MEMORANDUMS RELATIVE TO THE MODE OF MAKING WAR IN AMERICA

[By Major-General Robinson.]

January, 1779.

From my own knowledge, I aver, that the papers you show'd me, contain many useful informations, the assertion that a majority of the people in America wish to be subjects of the king, and are averse to the government they are now under is well founded, and it is on this foundation, we should build our hopes of renewing all the advantages this nation can derive from its Colonys.

The Authors of the rebellion were aware of this, and in order to seduce the people, artfully took the advantage of incidents, which I need not mention in detail, as they cant have escaped your observation, to induce a general beleif, that no alternative was left the inhabitants, but taking arms, or submitting to

slavery. When this was effected, they next perswaded the people, that the step they had taken would expose them to a resentment which they could no way avoid but by a successful rebellion.

I have proofs in my hands from some of the best inform'd of the rebel councils, and of the state of the peoples minds, dated two years ago—that if these two foundations on which the rebellion stood, were taken away, by an explicit declaration on our part, that the right of taxation by us, wou'd be given up and a general pardon granted, that the congress would not be able to raise a thousand men.

Circumstances are now much alter'd, the address and management necessary now to bring the people back to their duty to convert our envoys and call out the exertions of our friends, must now be much greater. What was before easy, now requires talents resembling those the Duke of Parma possest, indeed they need not be equal to his, for his difficultys were much greater than ours, he had the hard task of making people who had suffer'd by oppression, friends, and of inducing them to aid his arms in favour of a tirannical government, it is easier to reconcile people who have never been opprest, and to engage them to support a government form'd now to their wish.

The ambition of half the leaders has been disappointed, their rivals have got the offices they hoped for, no very profound management or refined policy is necessary to enduce them to prefer consequence under us, to the mortification of being subject to their rivals. But some address and knowledge of the state of every province and the interest and resentments of all the leading men is necessary. We can only succeed in our wishes, by making a proper use of the people in America, and this depends now upon the managers we employ.

The rebels now endeavour to create a beleif, that we are about to abandon our friends and that the country is to be given up to them. The first step we should take is to destroy this beleif, by a declaration from Government, that we will not abandon our friends, or quit the country, this should be sent immediately, and it must not be esteem'd policy to keep the King's good intentions secret, pains should be taken to communicate them to the people at large—this will cure the despair that is now driving our best friends to make up matters with

the rebels, and sets all the motives arising from hope and despair to operate to the advantage of the rebel cause.

A project for the Campaign can only be form'd by the Commander in Chief in America, from circumstances we cant know here—I think the following hints may be useful.

N. York can be assail'd, cannonaded, or have its communication with the sea cutt off, or the ships in its harbour destroy'd from so many places, that only a force able to fight Washington can keep it, indeed I would think the best way of defending the place was to fight Washington whenever he approach'd. I think an Army of 12,000 British and Hessians and two thousand provincials equal to this service.

The Country of the most importance for us to possess is the borders of the North River, if a great part of the reinforcements meant to be sent from hence arrives in May, I think on their arrival the posts the rebels have now in the highlands should be attack'd, were we masters of this river, the communication between the northern and southern provinces wou'd be cut off, which wou'd greatly distress almost starve them, and if this province was in our hands, and the people who love us, at liberty to act and secure of protection, I'll venture to say that 6000 men would arm and be ready to defend their possessions. I do not mean that they wou'd enlist as Soldiers, the gros of the respectable inhabitants of a Country are not to be expected to do this—but they wou'd like the Companys of inhabitants I raised last winter, arm, find themselves Cloaths, watch, patrole, and be ready to defend the town when the garrison was wanted for other service, and all this without putting government to any expence for pay or provisions—this country and the environs of Jersey in our possession, we cou'd derive great supplys of provisions, fewel forrage etc. and reduce great part of the expence and difficultys of the war—for this purpose the most considerable part of the supplys should be sent off in february or very early in march—what is not then ready shou'd sail early in april, if these last amount to 2,000 men, they shou'd go a northern passage, and fall in upon the coast of New England, they shou'd burn Newbury, Salem, and give the Alarm all along the Coast, this wou'd not only destroy almost all the privateers but wou'd call home all the N. England forces, and give the Commander in Chief an easy opportunity of possessing the

posts in the highlands and getting all the banks of the North river.

The Army shou'd not wander to places that cant be supported nor shou'd we call people into Arms who cant be sustain'd, their defeat gives consequence to the rebels. The Idea of scattering our troops into bodys of a thousand to defend these, wou'd be ruinous if persued, and the hope of forcing Washington over the Susquehana is too sanguine. The people that might arm and be within reach of our protection, which by means of a water carriage we cou'd afford in less time than the rebels cou'd send a body in force to attack them, shou'd be put under a civil government the offices shou'd be fill'd by the most respectable of the inhabitants, every priviledge and advantage even in trade shou'd be given, their State shou'd be made the envy of the neighbours, this wou'd bring numbers under our protection. The Government of N. York wou'd soon be able to support itself, this example, our negociations, and the progress of our Arms wou'd get the other provinces, and the rebels being disappointed in their Idea that we were quitting the country—and on the contrary being subject to very frequent invasions from Halifax, Florida and N. York, wou'd regret their condition, and wish for our protection.

The possession of the N. River wou'd open our communication with the Indians, who then might act in concert, and attack such places and at such times as we might direct.

But as the whole hope of success depends on the address and abilities of the Commander in Chief, he shou'd be vested with every power and at liberty to form and execute his own plans.

Endorsed by the King " by M. G. Robertson, Jan. 1779."

No. 2495—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 221.

QUEENS HOUSE,
Jany. 1*st* 1779,
m/58 *pt.* 10 A.M.

This instant I have received Lord North's letter which is wrote in so open and friendly a style that it has given me infinite pleasure, which arises from the real affection I have for him; I certainly feel very forcibly the many arguments that may be

used very cogent in their appearance yet diametrically opposite; I shall be very ready to hear all he may have to say on the present occasion; but I am certain one conversation cannot sufficiently canvas the subject that a decision can instantly ensue, he may depend on having every idea that occurs to me.

I enclose a copy of [a] most extraordinary paper delivered on Wednesday by the D. of Bolton; all he said was that Lord Hawke and the other Admirals that signed it had directed him to deliver it unto me; to which I replied that any paper signed by Lord Hawke and other Admirals could not fail of being duely considered by me; you will see it ends without any request consequently shews only great wrath at Sir Hugh Pallisser and the Admiralty.

No. 2496—*Lord Weymouth to the King.*

Your Majesty's commands shall always be obey'd in the best manner I am able, but on the present occasion the difficulties seem so great on either side that I do not know how to give an opinion. Lord North seems to have stated them very fairly; an acquisition of strength to the Administration is to be much wish'd; whether the proposed plan wou'd produce it or not seems doubtful, the Price for Lord Talbot's consent to quit his place seems enormous.

Jan. 2nd 1779.

No. 2497—*Mr. Jackson to Lord Sandwich.*

My Lord—The Court has been duely sworn on board the Britannia; and is adjourned to the Governor's House. the Members are

Sir Thomas Pye
Vice Admiral Buckle
Montagu
Rear Admiral Arbuthnot
Roddam

Captains Milbanke	Captains Drake
Penny	Moutray
Bennet	Duncan
Boteler	Cranston

Captain Walsingham, after the names of the (intended) Members had been called, addressed himself to Sir Thos. Pye, saying he observed some Officers Junior to himself had been called to sit, and desired to know why he was excluded. Sir Thomas answered an opinion had been taken on the subject; and desired it might be read, which was done, and no more was afterwards said. Nothing further was proceeded upon at the Governor's House, than reading the Charge. The examination of Witnesses will begin tomorrow at ten.

The Dukes of Cumberland, Richmond, and Bolton are hear, the Marquesses of Rockingham and Granby; Lord Effingham; Lieut. Gen. Keppel and Mr. Burke; I do not know if Dunning is; I could see Mr. Lee.

Upon receiving Your Lordship's Commands on Mr. Keppel's desire for Your Attendance, I immediately made my request that He will enable me to give Your Lordship the notice required.

There does not from the present state of the Business appear a likelyhood of much difficulty. It is impossible to say what time it may engage; the Summonses I have already given out are 149, but of those more than 40 are in both Lists. I am with the highest respect Your Lordship's Most faithfull, Obedient and most humble Servant. (Signed) Geo. Jackson.

Portsmouth,
7th Jany. 1779.

Copy, in the King's handwriting.

No. 2498—*Mr. Jackson to Mr. Stephens.*

Dear Sir—I would have forwarded the inclosed by an Express, but it does not merit the expence; and the Post Master here will not receive and forward Packetts till paid for. It is the Common practice, therefore I cannot nor have I time to contend against it.

Popularity is without a negative. You cannot conceive the impression the Alteration in the Robuste's Log book has made. A loud Hiss took place below the Bar which was not rebuked by the Court. You do not forget I write in confidence. Every day produces fresh Names of Witnesses. Instead of two Clerks,

the duty would faithfully and fairly employ Six. I am ruined in expence for Lodging and in living; all necessaries being dear to an extreme.

I returned Mr. Robinson this morning so that if he chuses he may see you long before this reaches You.

The Vice Admiral of the Red begins to fail. I despair of my President. Mr. Montague will take the Chair. The rest seem stout, able to continue their confinement. I only wish for myself, which I am ashamed of, and should not, were I not afraid of suffering, I came down with a Cold, and continue very indifferent. I am much with truth Dear Sir, Your faithful and most obedient Servant. (Signed) Geo. Jackson.

Portsmouth,
Jany. 8th 1779.

I do not mean to say that Sir Thos. Pye will not hold out some days longer.

Copy, in the King's handwriting.

No. 2499—*Mr. Jackson to Lord Sandwich.*

My Lord—It was yesterday requested by Mr. Keppel that all Masters summoned to give Evidence should be required to bring in their Log-Books to lay on the Table. Sir Hugh Palliser thought it would be sufficient for the Court's information if each Master after giving his Evidence was then to leave his Log-Book for that purpose—the request was agreed to be granted. The Masters this Morning in Court produced them. It was agreed to swear them that they were in point of time between 23rd and 30th July without any alteration or addition—the Master of the Robuste objected saying his Book had been altered and added to, respecting what had passed between the days named, by order of his Captain. His examination to this particular has given a strong impression. It was agreed not to examine him on the nature of the Alterations and additions. He was only required to ascertain that such had been made; *since it was known Mr. Keppel would be tried.*

Captain Marshall has been under examination all day; and

comes on again tomorrow ; hitherto in my judgement his evidence has not produced what was expected from it.

Your Lordship will not I hope forget the liberty I took in begging your excuse for such rough and hasty hints ; nor refuse me the indulgence at a moment so peculiarly due, to one who has not time for even necessary refreshments. I am, etc.

PORTSMOUTH, *Jany.* 8*th* 1779. GEO. JACKSON.

Copy, in the King's handwriting.

No. 2500—*Mr. Jackson to Lord Sandwich.*

Extract.

PORTSMOUTH, *Jany.* 10*th* 1779.

MY LORD—Captain Marshall's evidence was closed yesterday on the part of the Accuser, when the following question was put by the Court to him " From the day you first saw the French Fleet to the time you lost sight of them do you from your observation or knowledge know of any Act of the Commander in Chief Admiral Keppel behaving or conducting himself unbecoming a Flag Officer ? " Answer " No as God is my Judge."

The little that was yesterday produced from Sir Wm. Burnaby's evidence would scarce justify the trouble of mentioning it to your Lordship. He will be called again tomorrow. In the Evening I will not fail to forward an express with a Summary of his Evidence and of what may be given by any other ; though we get on so slowly, if we judge from late practice, one evidence will be as much as can be got through in a day. I am, etc. GEO. JACKSON.

I shall have satisfaction in the opportunity of sending my next by one of the Office Messengers if Your Lordship approves of one coming to me tomorrow.

Copy, in the King's handwriting.

No. 2501—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 223.

QUEENS HOUSE,
Jany. 10*th* 1779.
m/15 *pt.* 9 A.M.

This is merely to remind Lord North that the Recess is nearly at an end, consequently there is no time to lose in fixing with the Attorney General whether Lord Suffolk can be persuaded to remain in his present Employment, as also to weigh the inconveniences that may arise if there is no alteration made in the Head of the Admiralty Commission, and whether Lord Howe will not before the expiration of the Week lay the foundation of much altercation for the rest of the Session of Parliament which a subsequent fulfilling of the promise made him by Lord North whilst he commanded in North America, and renewed by the Message through the Channel of Lord Clarendon; yet not even at this hour thought of, which to a mind of his delicacy must naturally give lasting disgust.

Draft and fair copy in the King's handwriting.

No. 2502—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has, in obedience to his Majesty's commands, examined Mr. D'Oyly about his conversation with the Secretary of State and believes that there has been some misapprehension of his meaning, which has caused it to be stated to his Majesty in the manner it has been.

Mr. D'Oyly, according to his own account, said to Lord G[eorge] G[ermain]. "That it is not only necessary to determine whether the two Brothers should continue in their commands, but, if it should be so determined, it will also be requisite to consider *how to persuade* them to remain, after the letters that have been written to them."

Mr. D'Oyly alluded principally to the last letters written by Lord George to Sir William Howe which were extremely cold and dry with respect to Sir William's successes in Pensylvania, and at the same time left him in doubt as to his continuance in

the command. He assures Lord North that he never said or insinuated that it would be *unsafe* or *imprudent* to continue Lord Howe and Sir William Howe at the head of the fleet and army in America, notwithstanding what has been written to them, but he thinks that it will require some address to persuade them to continue; if they do remain he thinks it will be very safe and prudent to trust them.

Lord North believes that he has given to his Majesty faithfully and correctly the substance of what he received last night from Mr. D'Oyly, from whence he concludes that what Lord George said to his Majesty was rather an inference drawn by him from Mr. D'Oyly's conversation, than an exact report of the conversation itself.

Downing Street,
Jan. 10*th* [1779].

No. 2503—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

Lord Sandwich has the honour to send to your Majesty the only account he has recieved from Mr. Jackson since that which he transmitted to your Majesty the day before yesterday, and this account is recieved only at the time when this note is dated.

Lord Sandwich sent an express last night to Mr. Jackson to desire him to be more punctual, and for the future to send off an express every night with an account of what has been done in the course of the day.

Admiralty,
Jan. 10*th* 1779,
5 *minutes before* 12 A.M.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2504—*Captain Hyde Parker's Letter dated January* 14*th* 1779, *Savannah River.*

Sailed 27th Nov. from New York with the Transports under Convoy after a Series of bad weather arrived off of Tybee 23rd Dec. could not from the Southerly current get in untill 24th no operations could go on untill 27th except landing a Company of Light Infantry under the command of Sir Jas. Baird sent to

Wilmington Island to secure some of the Inhabitants and gain intelligence of the State of the Enemy. 29th took the Town of Savannah Since which protection has been held to such of the Inhabitants of Georgia as retained Allegiance to His Majesty; the effects have perfectly answered our most sanguine expectations a very large Majority have already subscribed to the Oath; the Country abounds with great quantities of Cattle; the defence of this Province must greatly depend on the Naval force on the different inland Creeks; Galleys covered from Musquetry are preparing for that purpose.

Jany. 15th M. G. Prevost with the King's troops from St. Augustin have obliged the Rebels at Sunbury to surrender at discretion.

Copy, in the King's handwriting.

No. 2505—*Mr. Jenkinson to the King.*

I take the liberty of sending your Majesty two Warrants for General Courts Martial, for your Majesty's signing, if you shall be pleased to approve of them. The one of them is for the Trial of the Officers of the Denbighshire Militia, who are now under arrest at Whitehaven. We have at last found out a Method of bringing to a Trial Captain Garside, who was charged with upbraiding Ensign Fothergil for not fighting a Duel without specifying that particular Crime; and as these officers have been in arrest already more than six weeks, it is thought proper that the Court Martial should be held the moment we know, whether Lord Darlington will be President and therefore it is wish'd to have the Warrant ready.

The other Warrant is to appoint a new Court Martial in the place of one that has been put an End to by the Illness of Lieut. Colonel Home.

I trouble your Majesty with a Letter I have received from the Duke of Gordon, making, as it appear'd to me a very unreasonable Request, and I add the Answer, I intend to return to it, if your Majesty is pleased to approve of it.

I am with the profoundest Respect Your Majesty's Dutyfull Subject C. JENKINSON.

January 16th 1779.

No. 2506—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of inclosing three letters of intelligence for his Majesty's perusal. They all agree in a story of an English Frigate taken by a French Frigate near St. Domingo, but as they differ in the number of guns and the name of the ship, and as we have received no account of it, Lord North is in hopes that the ship taken is only a merchant ship or, at most, a Privateer. There is a very singular anecdote in English at the end of one of the letters which Lord North knows not how to believe, as he has received no such intimation from any other quarter.

Lord Clarendon told Lord North yesterday at court that Lord Howe's most earnest wish was to see some military preferment or distinction confer'd upon his Brother, which might mark that his Majesty did not disapprove of his services. He added that such a promotion would he believes, put all ideas of enquiry out of his head, as well as his brother's.

Tuesday Evening,
Jan. 19th [1779].

No. 2507—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

ADMIRALTY,
Jan. 25th 1779.

Lord Sandwich has the honour to send to your Majesty a note he has recieved from Sir Hugh Pallisser, in consequence of which he proposes, with your Majesty's permission, to go to Portsmouth on Wednesday next in order to be examined on Thursday.

No. 2508—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

ADMIRALTY,
Jan. 26th 1779.

Lord Sandwich has the honour to send your Majesty the dispatches just recieved from Portsmouth, bringing an account

of Lord Shuldhams return, and of the arrival of the Bedford from New York whose Captain mentions the Sailing of Admiral Byron for the West Indies on the 12th of December, of the probable arrival of the Corke fleet of victuallers at New York, and of the safe arrival of Commodore Hotham at his destination.

No. 2509—*The King to Lord North.*

QUEENS HOUSE,
Jany. 27th 1779,
m/46 *pt.* 11 A.M.

I return unto Lord North the letters he sent unto me this morning and also those he sent a few days past. I am not much allarmed at the want of Provisions at New York as the Troops could Subsist forty days before which the Cork Convoy of October must have arrived. If Scuyler has succeeded in his attempt to head the Congress, some change will appear in the Conduct of that Self-created power. I think Hotham's Convoy now have certainly safely reached Barbadoes; so that on the whole appearances are much better than was apprehended some time since.

No. 2510—*Lord North to the King.*

[29 *January*, 1779.]

Lord North being indisposed today has not been able to go out and, consequently, to pay his duty at St. James's. He takes the liberty of laying before his Majesty some letters and papers of intelligence. He expects soon to see the Lord Chancellor again, after which he will send for Lord Howe, and finish the arrangement. He is very sorry that a coalition can not be the consequence of this arrangement as the advantage of it will in this situation be very precarious. He submits to his Majesty the absolute necessity of offering to Lord George Germain, (as he can not have a peerage,) the Wardenship of the Cinque-Ports made up to the value of the place when held by Lord Holdernesse. He would not mention this again but that he really thinks that

any disgrace to Lord George at this time would be both unjust and impolitick.

Lord North has had a long conversation with Dr. Galloway and some others about the present state of America, and has every reason to believe that a campaign conducted with vigour and ability promises the most happy success in this moment.

If Lord North had had the honour of seeing his Majesty to-day He intended to have recommended to his Majesty for a pension of 2 or 300 a year, the Mother and Sisters of Mr. Clarke the late unfortunate Governor of Senegal, by whose assistance and support during his life, they were entirely subsisted.

Downing Street,
Friday.

No. 2511—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 224.

Queens House,
Jany. 29*th* 1779,
m/37 *pt.* 6 P.M.

I am sorry to hear Lord North is indisposed, but trust with a little care he will soon remove his complaint. By Mr. Eden's note I perceive Opposition as I expected when they talk of coalition mean to dictate; I thank God I am not made of materials whatever difficulties may ever cirround me to stoop to that. I am certain Lord North cannot too soon see Lord Howe whom I trust will be reasonable; might it not be right to hold out to him the propriety of appointing Pallisser to the Command of the Fleet in N. America and opening his Seat at the Board of Admiralty.

As to the Offering the Cinque ports to Lord G. Germain I owne it grieves me as I feel a pleasure in having spontaneously conferred that Office on Lord North, but if on the whole it should be thought [better] to offer it unto him, I will not object to his having the Same Salary as Lord Holdernesse, but only during pleasure; I consent to the Pension for the Mother and Sisters of the late Governor of Senegambia.

No. 2512—*Lord North to the King.*

Sir—I have waited all the morning at home in expectation of seeing the Chancellor, whom I desired to call upon me. He has not yet been here, and, if he does not call soon, I shall be obliged to proceed without his advice which I should be unwilling to do, as I am far from being convinced that our arrangement will do good or, indeed, that it will not do harm; I still think, as I had the honour of representing to your Majesty, that without a coalition the present system must be overturn'd, and I am told that the accession of the D. of Grafton, Lord Camden, Mr. Fox and the Grenvilles, with Sir James Lowther's friends might be easily attain'd. My sincere opinion is that a large coalition would be forwarded by giving the Treasury to Lord Gower and Lord Weymouth and by appointing Mr. Jenkinson Chancellor of the Exchequer. The latter is, without exception, by much the fittest person in England to have the direction of the finances of this country: It is principally because I am satisfied that my continuance in ye office I hold is prejudicial to your Majesty's affairs, that I presume from time to time to suggest the expediency of a change in my department, but your Majesty is too just and too kind to me to doubt of my attachment to your service, and I trust that your Majesty attributes to that motive the readiness which I have shewn to relinquish, upon this occasion, what was so long the object of my wishes, and to sacrifice to an arrangement desired by your Majesty the only comfort which by your Majesty's goodness I enjoy among the various anxieties and miseries of my present situation.

Downing Street,
Monday, Feby. 1*st* [1779],
2 *o'clock.*

No. 2513—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 224.

Queens House,
February 1*st* 1779,
m/10 *pt.* 6 P.M.

I have received Lord North's letter and cannot sufficiently express my approbation of his resolution to do whatever shall be

most for my Service ; I cannot wish to see the Treasury in other hands than those who now preside at that Board, but that I may not appear too obstinate, I do not object if Lord North thinks the language held by the Duke of Grafton to Mr. Chamier worthy of consideration, to empower Lord Weymouth to see what can be engrafted upon it ; I trust before this comes to hand that Lord Weymouth will have stated the conversation this alludes to, unto Lord North.

Draft and fair copy in the King's handwriting.

No. 2514—*The King to Lord Weymouth.*

QUEENS HOUSE,
February 1st 1779,
m/23 pt. 6 P.M.

Lord Weymouth will by the enclosed see what has passed between me and Lord North ; remember if the negociation comes to any thing the Great Seal must remain in the present able hands, the new head of the Treasury *must be* Lord Weymouth and the Wardenship of the Cinque Ports remain with Lord North and an addition to the Salary to make it equal to what Lord Holdernesse received.

Draft, endorsed by the King.

No. 2515—*Lord Weymouth to the King.*

ARLINGTON STREET,
February 1st 1779,
m/20 past seven P.M.

Lord North is not yet acquainted with the conversation between the Duke of Grafton and Mr. Chamier, and when I was honor'd with Your Majesty's letter I was going after reflecting on the subject to submitt whether it wou'd not be better for me to see the Duke of Grafton before I communicated with Lord North, lest it might be said that I had no liberty to make such communication except to your Majesty, but as Lord North is now apprised that such a conversation has happen'd, I will take care that he shall know more of it, that he may have no reason

to complain of any neglect or disrespect towards him. I will endeavour to see the Duke of Grafton tomorrow, and all that passes between us shall be, ad referendum.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2516—*The King to Lord Weymouth.*

QUEEN'S HOUSE, *Feb. 2nd*, 1779,
$\frac{m}{30}$ *pt.* 4 P.M.

Lord Weymouth's note hath acquainted me with his having conversed with the Duke of Grafton, who is to sound the sentiments of some of his Friends, so that nothing can deserve reporting untill the conclusion of tomorrow night's conference.

Draft, written on a page of Lord Weymouth's letter of same date.

No. 2517—*Lord Weymouth to the King.*

ARLINGTON STREET,
February 2nd 1779,
m/55 *past* 3 P.M.

In obedience to Your Majesty's commands I have seen the Duke of Grafton; after some conversation and with very good humour, his Grace is to inform himself more particularly of the sentiments of some of his friends, and we are to meet again tomorrow Evening; nothing pass'd in the conversation of today worth reporting immediately to your Majesty.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2518—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 225.

QUEENS HOUSE,
February 4th 1779,
m/48 *pt.* 5 P.M.

LORD NORTH—I take the first Opportunity of acquainting you that when Lord Weymouth met the Duke of Grafton last

night, he found no reason to ground any hopes that a coalition could be effected; my conduct on this occasion must shew you that I never am deaf to any apparent proposal of general Union; though no circumstances shall ever compell me to be dictated to by Opposition. You may therefore now sound Lord Howe, but before I name him to preside at the Admiralty Board, I must expect an explicit declaration that he will zealously concurr in prosecuting the War in all the quarters of the Globe.

Draft and fair copy in the King's handwriting.

No. 2519—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of informing his Majesty, that he has had a conversation of two hours and a half with Lord Howe this morning which he is sorry to say was not satisfactory. He had likewise a shorter with Lord Sandwich; and waits for his Majesty's orders when it will be agreable to his Majesty that Lord North should report the substance of them to his Majesty.

Friday, 4 o'clock,
February 5th [1779].

No. 2520—*The King to Lord North.*

QUEENS HOUSE,
February 5th 1779,
m/30 *pt.* 5 P.M.

I have this instant received Lord North's note and shall be desirous of seeing him at nine this Evening.

No. 2521—*The King to Lord Weymouth.*

QUEENS HOUSE,
Feb. 6th 1779.

Lord Weymouth is too much attached to me to be indifferent as to the progress in replacing Lord Suffolk; the last night Lord North came to report the conversation he had held with Lord Howe, which undoubtedly was too diffuse for his determination to be accurately stated; though I think I clearly see

he means to decline succeeding to Lord Sandwich; but to prevent further loss of time I have desired Lord North if possible this day to get Lord Clarendon to bring a clear answer from Lord Howe on this subject; should it prove that my opinion is founded, which Lord North concurrs in; I perceive Lord North rather enclines to looking out for a direct Successor to Lord Suffolk, than to proposing the advance of Lord Sandwich and opening the Admiralty; I wish you would maturely weigh this and consult the Chancellor, which will enable you when the Cabinet dinner is over this day, to enquire from Lord North what hopes he has of Lord Howe, which will naturally give you room to state your ideas; and I shall hope also to hear what occurs to you before I finally decide; for I trust you know me well enough to be convinced that I have no other wish than to contribute in doing for the best.

Draft, endorsed by the King.

No. 2522—*Lord Weymouth to the King.*

St. James's,
February 6th 1779,
m/15 *past ten* P.M.

The meeting is this moment over, and upon asking Lord North concerning the progress of his negotiation, I find that he does not know more of it than he did last night, but he expects to hear either tonight or tomorrow morning. I saw the Chancellor this morning, and I shall have the honor of attending your Majesty tomorrow at St. James's to receive any commands that your Majesty may please to honor me with.

No. 2523—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of informing his Majesty that he has just seen Lord Howe, who acknowledges that Lord North represented his conversation fairly to his Majesty, and accurately stated the four circumstances which he thought necessary to enable him to be of use to his Majesty's service. Lord Howe concluded with expressing pretty strongly his wish that as his

requests seem'd to meet with difficulties, he might not be desired to embark in the situation that had been pointed out to him.

Lord North has the honour of sending several Rebel Newspapers, which Mr. Eden received by the Packet just arrived from New York. They are smuggled into New York in pies, and shoes, and various other packages and concealments which makes them very dirty, and not very sweet.

Monday Night,
February 8th 1779.

No. 2524—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 226.

QUEENS HOUSE,
February 9th 1779,
m/30 *pt.* 2 P.M.

From the report of the Conversation with Lord Howe on Friday stated that very Evening by Lord North, I had no other expectations but that he would decline on a further explanation the last Evening; the business may now be drawn to this short reflection either to look out for a proper person to succeed Lord Suffolk, or if the faction got into the Fleet should render it probable that Lord Sandwich will be less able than a new person to manage that department, then to advance Lord Sandwich to the Northern Seals.

I return the American letters and News Papers.

No. 2525—*Mr. Jackson to Lord Sandwich.*

PORTSMOUTH,
February 10th 1779.

MY LORD—Yesterday and this day have been employed in settling the Sentence; and it is now fixed it shall be pronounced tomorrow at Eleven; it is declared that the Charge is malicious and ill founded, that Mr. Keppel so far from tarnishing the honour of the British Flag by his misconduct and neglect on the 27th and 28th of July, behaved as became a judicious, brave,

and Experienced Officer; He is unanimously and honourably acquitted.

My Minutes and the Sentence shall be forwarded the moment I return from the Court, that if possible they may reach Your Lordship by Eleven at Night. If the messenger cannot be at the Admiralty by that hour, he shall be with Mr. Stephens by Seven the next morning. I shall follow the moment I have collected my Papers, but fear I shall not be able to reach Your Lordship to know your commands till Saturday morning; after which I shall hope for your Lordship's indulgence for a few days to recover the effect of a fatigue, which would have been indifferent to me if it had not been accompanied with so much noise and such incessant interruptions.

The Duke of Bolton has written to the President telling the Court he means to move in Parliament for leave to bring in a Bill to release the Members of Courts Martial from their confinement; on which I fancy Your Lordship will be solicited, the Court having already told me they shall ask my assistance tomorrow.

I am, etc. Geo. Jackson.

Copy, in the King's handwriting.

No. 2526—*Commodore Hood to* [*Lord Sandwich ?*].

Portsmouth Dock Yard,
February 10th 1779.

My Lord—A Memorial to the King has been handed about here to be signed by the Captains, praying His Majesty to remove Sir Hugh Pallisser from all his employments; it was carried by Captain Jervis last night to Captain Robinson who begged to be excused signing it, as did Captain Digby also; Captain Robinson does not know all the names that had signed, but on throwing his Eye over the Memorial as Captain Jervis was reading it, he saw the names of Sir Robert Harland and Admiral Campbell, and the Captains Sir John Ross, Edwards, Walsingham, Maitland, Clements, Carter Allen, Laforey, Levison Gower, and Marshall; Captain Jervis said eighteen had signed it and six or eight more had promised. What a glaring proof is this My

Lord of the malevolence and rancour of Party! and what presumption to attempt to prescribe to his Majesty, who he shall or shall not employ. Let Sir Hugh's fate be what it may, the King never had a more brave and able Officer in his Service or a more zealous and faithful Servant.

(Signed) Sam. Hood.

Copy, in the King's handwriting.

No. 2527—*Lord Weymouth to* [*the King ?*].

I am assured by Sir John Fielding (to whom I sent) that he is very well prepared in case there shou'd be any attempt to oblige people to light their houses.

2 *o'clock* P.M.,
February 10*th* 1779.

No. 2528—*Prince of Hesse to the King.*

Sire—Le zéle respectueux qui m'anime toujours également pour le Service de Votre Majesté m'a fait proposer au General Faucitt une Compagnie de Chasseurs, au lieu des Recrues, que la situation de mon Regiment d'Infanterie prisonnier de guerre actuellement et l'Etat complet de mon Corps de Chasseurs, ne pouvoient exiger cette annee. Persuadé que Votre Majesté daignera approuver cette Demarche, et que selon le Traité par lequel je Lui ai presenté le Corps de Chasseurs, Il a eté reservé de l'augmenter selon les circonstances jusqu'a la force d'un Bataillon, J'ai prié le General Faucitt de reçevoir cette nouvelle Compagnie, sous le bon plaisir de Votre Majesté. Trop assuré de Ses bontés et graces pour en douter un moment j'ose L'assurer trés humblement que je porterai toute mon attention a meriter en cette occasion la haute bienveuillance comme j'ai osé m'en flater jusqu'ici.

C'est avec le plus profond Respect et l'attachment le plus soumis et invariable que je ne cesserai d'etre a jamais Sire De Votre Majesté Le trés humble trés obeissant et trés soumis Serviteur Guillaume P. H. D. Hesse.

Hanau,
le 10*e Fevrier* 1779.

No. 2529—*Lord Amherst to the King.*

The Duke of Chandos intending to ask an Audience of your Majesty tomorrow in regard to Colonel Adeane; I think it proper, most humbly, to lay before your Majesty, the Letter I received from the Duke of Chandos, with a Copy of my answer.

AMHERST.

Near WHITEHALL,
11*th February* 1779,
¼ *after* 11 *o'clock* A.M.

No. 2530—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of transmitting to his Majesty two letters which he received yesterday. He is sorry to say that this disposition of quitting administration, and of turning against it increases every day, and that he now fears that it will be impossible to carry on the Public business against the opposition which will be made against every measure of government.

Lord North has the honour of intreating to learn his Majesty's pleasure when he will have him attend to receive his Majesty's commands upon the subject of his letter of Monday last.

Thursday, 12 *o'clock*,
February 11*th* 1778 [? 1779].

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2531—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 226.

QUEENS HOUSE,
February 11*th* 1779,
m/15 *pt.* M.

LORD NORTH—I am ready to hear your proposal for filling up the Northern Seals whenever most convenient to you; it does not require great penetration to discover that Lord Carlisle is either pressed to the step is taken either [*sic*] by his Relations or by Mr. Eden in hopes it may drive you to give up Lord G. Germain [*sic*].

No. 2532—*Sentence of the Court Martial Portsmouth, Feby.* 11*th* 1779.

At a Court Martial, assembled on board His Majesties Ship Britannia in Portsmouth Harbour the 7th January 1779, and held by adjournment at the House of the Governor of His Majesties Garrison at Portsmouth every day afterwards, (Sundays excepted) till the 11th of February 1779 inclusive.

Present

Sir Thos. Pye, Admiral of the White, President.
Mathew Buckle Esqr. Vice Admiral of the Red, till the close of the Sixth day, when he became unable any longer to continue his attendance on account of Sickness.
John Montagu Esqr. Vice Admiral of the Red.
Mariot Arbuthnot Esqr. } Rear Admirals of the White.
Robt. Roddam Esqr. }

Captains Mark Milbanke	Fra. Samuel Drake
Taylor Penny	John Moutray
William Bennet	Adam Duncan
Philip Boteler	James Cranston

The Court pursuant to an Order of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty dated 31st December 1778, and directed to Sir Thomas Pye, proceeded to enquire into a charge exhibited by Vice Admiral Sir Hugh Palliser, against the Honourable Admiral Keppel for misconduct, and neglect of Duty on the 27th and 28th July 1778 in sundry instances as mentioned in a Paper, which accompanied the said Order ; and to try him for the same ; and the Court having heard the Evidence, and the Prisoner's Defence, and maturely and seriously considered the whole, are of opinion, that the Charge is malicious and ill founded ; it having appeared that the said Admiral, so far from having by misconduct and neglect of Duty on the days therein alluded to, lost opportunity of rendering essential Service to the State, and thereby tarnished the Honour of the British Flag, behaved as became a Judicious, Brave, and Experienced Officer. The Court do therefore unanimously and honourably acquit the said Admiral Augustus Keppel of the several Articles contained in

the Charge against Him : and he is hereby fully and honourably acquitted accordingly.

Copy, in the King's handwriting.

No. 2533—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 226.

QUEENS HOUSE,
February 12th 1779,
m/3 pt. 9 A.M.

This morning I have received Lord North's letters ; he must now have his eyes fully opened to Mr. Eden's Character that it would but be wasting time in expatiating upon it. He ought certainly to send for some of his Friends of the House of Commons this morning that they may be apprized of this strange phenomenon and also for Lord Weymouth that the conduct of both Houses may be similar ; He is I see also to have an interview with Lord Carlisle ; I therefore will be early at my Levee that I may be ready to see Lord North by One ; sooner I do not think he can possibly come without omitting some of these necessary matters.

No. 2534—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 227.

QUEENS HOUSE,
February 12th 1779,
m/50 pt. 10 A.M.

Having just heard of the violent Attack in the Night at Lord North's House which providentially proved abortive by the activity of the Military I cannot refrain from taking up my Pen to desire He will just write word how Lady North and all the Family are this Morning ; I should think this riot requires some serious investigation I understand Six Men have been seized in Sir Hugh Palliser's House in the fact of destroying it, sure these are open to the Rigour of the Law and if some management is used perhaps to save their lives some may turn Evidence and the whole plan may by investigation be brought to Light ; the Chancellor would be a proper adviser on this occasion.

No. 2535—*Lord North to the King.*

[12 *February*, 1779.]

Lord North was obliged to go to dine at Lord Hertford's as soon as he left the House of Commons, which prevented his writing to his Majesty immediately.

Sir Philip Jennings's motion for leave to bring in a bill for excluding the Contractors from a seat in Parliament or rather for preventing a member of the House of Commons from holding any contract with Government unless it is made by advertisement and granted to the lowest bidder, was carried this day by a majority of 158 to 143 by which repeated opinion of the House of Commons upon a motion so personal to the first Lord of the Treasury, it is become too clear that they no longer wish to see Lord North in that situation. Lord North will endeavour to prevent the Bill's passing, but if it should pass, Lord North hopes that his Majesty will not wish him to continue after such mortifying declarations of the Ho. of Commons. Indeed, he believes, it will not be possible [;] for the House having convey'd their opinion in this gentle manner will do it in a more violent way, if their hints are not attended to.

Lord North has the honour of inclosing a letter he received from Mr. Robinson at Ld. Hertford's.

No. 2536—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 228.

QUEENS HOUSE,
February 12*th* 1779,
m/35 *pt.* 9 P.M.

I am sorry Lord North takes so much to heart the division of this day; I am convinced this Country will never regain a proper tone unless Ministers as in the Reign of King William will not mind being now and then in a Minority particularly on subjects that have always carried some weight with popular Opinions; if it comes to the worst the Bill will be thrown out in the House of Lords; the day of trial is not the honourable one to disert me; keep the merit of having stepped forth when

I was in distress by staying till the Scene becomes Severe if you will but act with vigour you cannot fail of support; on the rectitude of a man's intentions alone must every man trust for real firmness; I am certain therefore that on consideration you will like a man go on with Spirit, and that alone will get you a thorough support.

No. 2537—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of informing his Majesty that he has just heard of the death of General Mostyn. He promised Mr. Lascelles some time ago to speak to his Majesty on behalf of Colonel Lascelles, on the first vacancy of a groom of the Bedchamber. Mr. Lascelles, and his friends, who are [of] considerable weight in the House of Commons, and in the country, have given a constant and disinterested support to government, and he seems very earnest for his relation. Lord North submits to his Majesty that before Mr. Mostyn's military promotions are disposed of, it might be worth while to consider, whether some promotion may not, with propriety, be given to Sir William Howe. Lord North is far from being satisfied that it would be right to do so, but the indisposition of Parliament to the present administration begins to shew itself so plainly, that he thinks it his duty to submit this circumstance to his Majesty's consideration. He will speak to some friends upon the subject, and let his Majesty know their sentiments.

Downing Street,
February 13*th* 1779.

No. 2538—*The King to Lord North.*

[? 13 *February*, 1779.]

Lord North—If you can conveniently come before I go to the House I shall be very glad to see you, but if not this Evening would do as well; I do in the strongest manner desire you to be cautious in going to the House this day for there is no answering for a hired Mob, and if possible to come down whilst I am at the House as My Guard will prevent any Riot.

m/15 *pt.* 10 A.M.

No. 2539—*Lord Weymouth to the King.*

ARLINGTON STREET,
February 13*th* 1779,
m/40 *past one* P.M.

Your Majesty is pleased to command me to give an opinion on the dismission of Sir Hugh Palliser; I think it must end in his losing his employments, and in addition to the Petition of the Captains, a motion will probably be made for it in the House of Commons which it may be difficult to resist.

No. 2540—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 229.

QUEENS HOUSE,
February 13*th* 1779,
m/ *pt.* P.M. [*sic*].

Untill I received Lord North's note, I had not the smallest notice of General Mostyn being ill; I will certainly not take any final Arrangement as to his Military preferments untill Lord North has any advice to offer as to Sir William Howe the only thing that could suit him would be a good Government; Minorca would not do for he is Junior to the Lieut. Governor but Murray may be appointed Governor and Howe Lieut. Governor which is equally good, or someone else appointed to the Lieut. Government who may vacat a Government for Sir W. Howe; I authorize you to talk with Mr. Lascelles to his Nephew's being appointed Groom of the Bedchamber, the regular notice from the Groom of the Stole I will order to be given the first time I see Lord Ashburnham.

I have been considering very seriously on the intended Memorial from the Naval Officers for removing Sir Hugh Palliser from his Offices, and seeing in addition that it will also come from the Houses of Parliament; I am clear it will end in his losing his Offices, therefore strongly recommend his being instantly removed from the Lieut. General of Marines and the Nominal Government of Scarborough and giving notice of it in this Night's Gazette; you may take time to consider who shall succeed him in that Office which I am certain has been the real source of

all the mischief that has now broke forth; I believe you will find no one but Lord Sandwich against this Step; as it seems inevitable I owne I think it wiser to do it spontaneously than to be drove to it.

No. 2541—*The King to Lord North.*

QUEENS HOUSE,
February 13th 1779,
m/51 *pt.* 2 P.M.

LORD NORTH—On receiving your intimation that further disturbance is intended this Night; I have sent for the Field Officer in Waiting and will order additional reinforcements if necessary to the Guards to be ready; you will give notice to the Civil Magistrates that they be ready to keep the Peace of the Town.

No. 2542—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has, in obedience to his Majesty's command, laid before the Lords of the Cabinet Council, his Majesty's question with respect to Sir Hugh Palliser, and has been directed by their Lordships to lay their opinion before his Majesty, That, as a Court Martial will be held upon him, it would be unjust to send him to his trial under the prejudice of a dismission on the part of the Crown, and that, therefore, the question of removing him from his offices of Lieutenant General of the Marines and the Government of Scarborough which are Military employments, had better be defer'd till the Court Martial should be over. It was the opinion of some Lords that a removal from all his Offices, and no Court Martial was the properest and kindest treatment of Sir Hugh. It was the opinion of others that a removal from his Offices would be of service to him on the Court Martial, but the prevailing sentiment seem'd to be, that a Court Martial is unavoidable, and that it would not be right to send him to his trial under the prejudice of a censure and dismission on the part of the Crown.

Since Lord North return'd, He has received a letter from the Atty. Genl. containing his opinion on the same point, as well as on the immediate preferment of Sir William Howe. Lord North

takes the liberty of transmitting it to his Majesty, though his Majesty will easily perceive that it was written in a hurry, and intended for no eye but Lord North's.

The apprehension of an illumination and a riot this evening came to Lord North from Lord Sandwich, and to Lord Sandwich from Lord Denbigh, and appears, in point of truth, to be equally well founded with all other intelligence from the same quarter.

DOWNING STREET,
Saturday, 10 *o'clock* P.M.
February 13*th* 1779.

No. 2543—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 240.

QUEENS HOUSE *March* 15*th* 1779.
$\frac{m}{2}$ *pt.* 8 A.M.

Lord North cannot doubt how much I was pleased at Seeing that the Majority was so very respectable on the question which it was supposed would be the nearest, this will I trust make the future efforts of the opposition more feeble, a little civility to those who have come to our assistance, and a steadiness of conduct will infallably bring things again into order.

No. 2544—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of informing his Majesty that a Motion made by Mr. Dunning to declare "*that the Admiralty were possess'd of a discretion to direct, refuse, or delay Courts Martial according to the circumstances of the Case*", was put off by a previous question.

Ayes 135
Noes 228

And another Motion of Mr. Dunning to censure the granting of the Court Martial to try Admiral Keppell was negatived.

Ayes 121
Noes 218

DOWNING STREET.
Mar. 16 [1779]. ¼ *pt.* 2 A.M.

Enclosure. 15th March 1779.

Speakers on Mr. Dunnings Motion relative to the Discretionary Power of the Board of Admiralty, to grant Courts Martial; and on his Motion for a Censure on the Admiralty for granting the Court Martial on Admiral Keppell

For.	Against.
Mr. Dunning	Lord Mulgrave
Lord Howe	Mr. Hans Stanley
Mr. Thos. Townshend	Mr. Attorney General moved the previous Question.
Mr. Burke	Mr. Solicitor General
Mr. Conway	Lord Nugent
Admiral Pigot	Mr. Penton
Sir Wm. Meredith	Lord Advocate
Mr. Fox	Lord North
Mr. Barre	Mr. John St. John

The House divided for the Question	Ayes	135
For the previous Question & agt. the Main Question being put	Noes	228

Mr. Dunning then moved the Question for the Censure on the Board of Admiralty, which was immediately put without Debate and the House divided

For that Question	Ayes	121
Against it	Noes	218

No. 2545—*Mr. Jenkinson to the King.*

These Dispatches were carried to Lord Barrington's House, & His Lordship not being at home, they were not sent to me till this morning; I should otherwise have transmitted them to your Majesty sooner. Your Majesty has probably already seen Copies of some of these Papers; but the two Letters from Major Genl. Munro seem to be worthy of your Majesty's perusal, as they relate to the Conduct of two of your Majesty's Officers, & mention that He has sent home the Colours of Pondicherry to be laid at

your Majesty's Feet; on which subject your Majesty, I presume, will signify your Commands.

March 17 [1779]. 25 *p.* 10 *o'clock.*

No. 2546—*Mr. Jenkinson to the King.*

Having just now received the Inclosed from Lord Barrington, I thought it right to send it to your Majesty, that Your Majesty might be apprized of Genl. Murray's Expectations with respect to the Government of Minorca.

I have seen Lt. George Osborne; He thinks that the present Guard may be continued without any Fatigue to the Soldier or Inconvenience to the Officer, & that it is better to continue it for a few days, as the Duke of Glouster told Him this morning, that Tuesday was the day, when fresh Riots may be expected; I conclude from this as well as from other Circumstances that Admiral Keppel comes to Town on Tuesday.

Soon after I left your Majesty I saw Mr. Rigby's Chariot at the door of Ld. Weymouth's Office; He was certainly come there by Appointment to hear what report Ld. Weymouth had to make; & it shews that the whole of this Business was preconcerted; I am persuaded that the three different Heads of Opposition are jealous of each other, & each contending to be treated with in preference to the other, & that the Resistance & Spirit, which your Majesty has shewn will bring them at last to your own Terms. from your Dutyfull Subject C. Jenkinson.

Febry. 14*th* 1779
9 *o'clock.*

No. 2547—*Lord North to the King.*

[17 *February*, 1779.]

Lord North has the honour of acquainting his Majesty with a piece of intelligence he has just received from Lord Sandwich. That it is probable that a petition may be presented today to his Majesty desiring that S^{r} H. Palliser may be removed from all his Offices. It is signed by several Admirals & Captains. In consequence of the inclosed resolution, which was come to by

several Members of Parliament who met at Ld North's house yesterday morning, Lord Sandwich & Mr. Robinson are going to meet Sr Hugh at a small distance from Town, in order to persuade him to resign his Offices voluntarily, & Lord Sandwich has little doubt of succeeding in his application.

Wednesday morng.

Enclosure.

Several Motions being to be made for an Address to the Crown for the removal of Sir Hugh Palliser from his Offices of Lieut. General of Marines, and Governor of Scarborough Castle, and for his Expulsion from his Seat in the House of Commons.

It is the Opinion of the Gentlemen present, That as the Grounds of the Motion for removing Sir Hugh Palliser arise from the Sentence of the Court Martial held on Admiral Keppell who have qualified his Charge as Malicious and illfounded, a direct negative to that Motion cannot be supported, and it is very much doubted what may be the Event of the Question for adjourning the Consideration of that point until after the Court Martial to be held on Sir Hugh, and therefore it is submitted to the Consideration of Sir Hugh whether it wou'd not be more judicious for him to resign his Offices of Lieut. General of Marines and Governor of Scarborough Castle; And they think it right that Sr H. P. should be apprized that if a Motion is made for His Expulsion, He will be ordered by the House to attend in his place, which it will be necessary for him to Obey, in order to make his Defence.

No. 2548—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 230.

Queens House *Feby.* 14*th* 1779 $\frac{m}{18}$ *pt.* 9 A.M.

As by Lord North's account of the opinions of the Cabinet to whom he communicated the idea of removing Sir Hugh Palliser from his Military Emoluments, that it would be unjust to send him to his Trial under the prejudice of a Dismission on the part

of the Crown, I certainly will not insist upon it; though I do not think this will avail him anything, and that it will in the end be thought right to take that step, but that at a later period, and consequently with the additional mortifying circumstance of an appearance of being obtained by force.

As to the Attorney General's letter it seems to contain a desire of objecting to whatever is proposed, not a desire of giving solid assistance.

I hope Lord North will by the event of last Night learn not to put too much stress on what comes from Lord Sandwich when that Lord thinks himself the object of attack, still less as he chuses to retail the news of so very incorrect a dealer in that Commodity as Lord Denbigh.

No. 2549—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 231.

QUEENS HOUSE, *Feb.* 17*th* 1779.

$\frac{m}{30}$ *pt.* M.

Lord North cannot be surprised at my thinking the step I proposed of removing Sir H. Palliser last Saturday was not so improper as the Majority of the Cabinet seemed to think, when Lord Sandwich himself is forced to come now to a mean Subterfuge to attain the same end.

No. 2550—*Sir Hugh Palliser* [*to Lord Sandwich ?*].

MY LORD—After duly revolving in my mind the present state of things, the confusion into which His Majesty's Service is thrown by the present violent measures and proceedings of a deluded Mob against me, and having long perceived a Spirit of envy and jealousy drawn upon me by the favours and honours which His Majesty has from time to time been graciously pleased to bestow upon me, as rewards for long and faithful labours in the Service of my Country; I think it best in order to abate the rage of prejudice raised against me, and to favour measures for

restoring tranquility, humbly to beg Your Lordship will interceed with His Majesty to permit me to resign my Commission as Lieut. Gen. of Marines and the nominal Government of Scarborough Castle, at the Same time I must beg through Your Lordship's favour that His Majesty may be assured of the continuance of my loyalty, duty, and zeal to His Majesty to the last moment of my life, whatever may be my fate, and to whatever low situation I may be reduced. I have, etc. HUGH PALLISER.

LONDON
18*th Feby.* 1779.

Copy, in the King's handwriting.

No. 2551—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 232.

QUEEN'S HOUSE, *Feby.* 19*th* 1779.
$\frac{m}{35}$ *pt.* 10 P.M.

LORD NORTH—Perhaps there never was a more general run than against poor Sir Hugh Palliser, and that not only from a faction but moderate men are shocked and with reason at his bringing a Capital Charge and yet not having proved the smallest appearance of ground for such a grievous charge; therefore I should hope Mr. Fox having withdrawn his very severe motion is some proof that men are a little returning to their Senses and will at length See that though Palliser's conduct is alone to be accounted for by the passion that attended the very unguarded attack he met with, yet that his Services to the Public make him deserve a little indulgence.

No. 2552—*Duke of Chandos to Lord Amherst.*

CHANDOS HOUSE.
Sat: 20 *Feb.* 1779.

MY LORD—Being just informed of the Promotion of Officers which is to take Place, & Seing Lt. Coll. Adeane's Name in that List, as one who is to have the Rank of Coll, in the Group; I

cannot help mentioning to your Lordship, that as there will be five Vacancies of Aids de Camp, it is my wish that He may not have his Notification of his Brevet as Coll: till I can have an opportunity of going in to His Majesty on Monday, who I am willing to think, does not mean totally to pass over my former Applications in his Behalf particularly as there are now so many Vacancies in His Majesty's List of Aids de Camp: at least if I am to receive this publick Slight, I must beg to receive it from His Majesty Himself.

I have the honour to remain Your Lordship's Most Obedt. Servant CHANDOS.

No. 2553—*Lord Amherst to the Duke of Chandos.*

WHITEHALL 20*th Feby.* 1779.

Lord Amherst presents his Compliments to the Duke of Chandos, and has the honour to acknowledge the receipt of His Grace's Letter of this date. The Promotions are already given in, to the War Office, agreeably to The King's Commands respecting them; and His Majesty will select from amongst the Colonels such of them as he may chuse to be his Aides de Camps. Lord Amherst would have been ready to lay before the King any request of the Duke of Chandos upon this or any other occasion, but as His Grace proposes to see The King himself on the Subject of Colonel Adeane, that may be more satisfactory both to His Grace and to the Colonel.

Copy, in Lord Amherst's handwriting.

No. 2554—*Mr. Jenkinson to the King.*

Immediately after I left your Majesty I received the Inclosed letter from Mr. Robinson. The Transactions to which it relates, are of no great Importance, but as it will shew your Majesty what is going on, & will open to your Majesty, the Designs of the respective Parties & may prepare You against them, I thought it best to send it to your Majesty.

It is evident from these papers, that the Attorney General & Mr. Eden think, that Mr. Robinson has more Influence than themselves over Lord North, & that it is necessary therefore to pay court to Him, which they readily do, though they had before abused Him so much.

It is evident also from hence what a Spirit of Intrigue & Negociation prevails among the Inferiour Instruments of your Majesty's Government, which tends in fact more to disturb than to settle it, which is the Object They pretend to have in View.

I forgot to mention today to your Majesty that the Duke of Chandos intends to ask an Audience of your Majesty tomorrow, & to plead in favour of Lt. Col. Adeane, that He may be appointed one of your Majesty's Aid de Camps instead of having the Brevet of Colonel.

From your Majesty's Dutyfull Subject, C. JENKINSON.

PALL MALL,
Feby. 21*st* 1779.
6 *o'Clock.*

No. 2555—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 233.

QUEENS HOUSE *Feby.* 22*nd* 1779.
$\frac{m}{35}$ *pt.* 5 P.M.

I cannot see any reason to create a nominal Office for a Pension to be given with more eclat to Mr. Eden the idea of Deputy Ranger to Greenwich Park above all would be improper; the granting the Pension into the hands of Trustees for the sole use of Mrs. Eden seems the properest mode.

If Doctor Priestley applies to My Librarian he will have permission to see the Library as other Men of Science have had but I cannot think the Doctor's Character as a Politician or Divine deserves my appearing at all in it; instruments I have none in London. I am sorry Mr. Eden has any intimacy with that Doctor as I am not over fond of those that frequent any Disciples or companions of the Jesuit in Berkeley Square.

No. 2556.

House of Commons.
22nd February 1779.

Speakers on Col[l] Barre's Motion for the Committee to have an Instruction to receive a Clause for limiting the Time of Service of the Soldier.

For the Motion.	Against it.
Mr. Barre	Mr. Jenkinson
Sir Wm. Howe agt. 3 years but for 10 years.	Lord Westcote
Mr. Herbert	Col[l] Stuart
Genl. Conway, He wished the proposition not to be agitated at present, yet voted for it.	Captn. Egerton
	Sir Herbert Mackworth
	Lord Lewisham
	Sir William Bagot
Genl. Burgoyne	Mr. Jolliffe
Sir Edwd. Astley	
Mr. Burke	
Mr. Goodricke	
Mr. Aubrey	
Major Stanley	
Sir George Yonge	
Major Hartley	
Mr. Byng	

The House divided Ayes 68
Noes 122

After this a Conversation arose on an Objection stated by Sr. Philip Jenning Clarke relative to the Powers of Regimental Court Martials, and the necessity of restraining those Powers in which the following Gentlemen spoke but no Motion was made, being deferred either till the report or the third reading, at the last of which Mr. Barre will offer his Clause.

For regulating & restrain[g] Regimental Courts Martial.	Against.
Sr. P. J. Clarke	Mr. Sawbridge
Mr. Burke	Genl. Conway for postponing it.
Mr. Barre	

No Division.

No. 2557—*Lord George Germain to the King.*

Lord George Germain has the honour of sending your Majesty the dispatches from Georgia, the conduct of Lieutenant Colonel Campbell is deserving of your Majesty's approbation, and the Reduction of Georgia may be productive of the most happy consequences. Lieutenant Colonel Innes who brought this account is very intelligent.

The Messenger will wait for the return of the Letters, as it will be proper to insert these in the Gazette this evening.

Pall Mall $\frac{m}{40}$ *pt.* 10 A.M. *Feby.* 23*rd* 1779.

No. 2558—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 234.

Lord North—I cannot refrain congratulating you on the very good success of the Expedition again[st] Georgia as also on the taking of St. Lucia this I trust will be followed with further prosperous events.

Queens House
Feby. 23*rd* 1779
$\frac{m}{38}$ *pt.* 11 A.M.

No. 2559—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 235.

Queens House *Feby.* 23*rd* 1779.
$\frac{m}{41}$ *pt.* 8 P.M.

Lord North—The Account of what has passed in the House of Commons this day would not have called upon me to return any answer this Night had not I wished to toutch on the bad attendance stated by Lord North; I cannot help thinking it criminal in any Man at so momentous an hour as the present one holding back and not taking an active part; I therefore am

ready to take any ostensible step to shew my disapprobation of those who do not attend, and shall very readily concurr in any proposition that may come from Lord North on that Subject.

No. 2560.

Thoughts of Admiral Keppels Concerning His Situation, Most Humbly and respectfully submitted to Your Majesty.

Sir—The Goodness with which Your Majesty has always been pleased to receive any Observations I have taken the liberty to lay at your Majesty's Feet concerning the situation to which Your Majesty did me the honor to call me of Commanding The Fleet for the defence of your Majestys Kingdoms, makes me presume with all possible Duty and Respect to Submit the following considerations to Your Majestys Wisdom & goodness.

Your Majesty will recollect that when I received your Majestys Orders to take this Command I Obey'd without difficulty, and acquainted Your Majesty that as I had no Friend among Your Majestys Ministers to Support me, I should rely solely on Your Majesty and the good Opinion I should hope to deserve of my Country for protection.

I beg leave to Assure your Majesty that my conduct towards your Ministers has been not only fair & Upright, but open & unreserved.

When I undertook this great trust, I resolved not to make but to surmount Difficulties, I made no complaints, I exposed no neglects, I divulged no secrets, on the contrary I acted towards them with the same confidence I would have shewn to my best Friends and I expected a suitable return of Support.

I am sorry to inform Your Majesty that this confidence has been ill requited.

My Return to St Helens on the 27th of June when notwithstanding the Opinion of the first Lord of the Admiralty communicated to me that with Twenty such Capital Ships, After the detachment sent with Admiral Byron, as I should still have under my command, I should be a fair match for the Brest Fleet; I found Myself likely to meet with a Force by one third Superior, remains to this day without a Syllable of Official Approbation As does my taking the French Frigates, the Utmost which could

be got from any of them, & that not till it was extorted was a cold negative saying of Lord North in the House of Commons, that the prudence & propriety of the measure exempted me from blame.

The Board of Admiralty have without a Moments hesitation order'd me to prepare for a Trial for my life and Honor on recriminatory charges brought Against me by Sir Hugh Palliser a Vice Admiral Under my Command & who had first libelled me in a common newspaper. These Charges the least enquiry would have shewn to be as Malicious and Ill founded as they have since been Adjudged.

They have made Use of Your Majesty's name and Urged Detriment to the State as Motives to Induce me to submit to an illegal Prohibition of my producing either to my Counsel or to the Court Martial the Instructions Under which I had Acted & which I had Informed them my Counsel had required to see, as necessary to Enable them to give me the best Advise how to make my defence. For the same persons to call an Officer to a Trial for his life, & then to limit him in his Defence by their discretion is so glaring an injustice and of so bad an Example, that it is unnecessary for me to lay it Open to your Majesty's goodness & Wisdom, I am really Afraid that the precedent of my Submission may be Mischevious, [*sic*] but so far as related to Myself, there could be no doubt but Your Majestys name & the possibility of the production of the Instructions being detrimental to the state would make me forego even the most essential means of Defence, happily I have not stood in need of any Instructions to Obtain the most honorable Acquittal, but the case might have been Otherwise. I beg leave to add myself to that respectable List of Admirals who have dutifully laid before your Majesty their sense of the prejudice which the conduct of the Admiralty may cause to Your Majesty's service.

It would be taking Up a great deal too much of your Majesty's time were I to mention every instance in which I have experienced want of support from Your Majesty's servants, those I have mentioned are notorious & Altho' I shall ever place the Most implicit confidence in Your Majesty's personal goodness & protection, Your Majesty must be sensible that such marks of slight & neglect to say no worse, from Your Majesty's Ministers who still enjoy Your Majesty's confidence must render it very

difficult if not impossible for any Officer in a command of importance to serve with satisfaction or Creditt to himself & of Course with Benefitt to Your Majesty's service.

Thus situated it would be presumption in me to wish to know what Dispositions Your Majesty may have in contemplation, but I should be greatly Wanting in the Duty I owe Your Majesty, if at the same time that I beg leave to renew the most sincere profession of Duty & Loyalty & the most Ardent Wish of serving Your Majesty, I did not humbly implore Your Majesty's permission not to go again to sea Under Men on Whom I have learnt from Experience I cannot depend for the Support which is necessary for every Commander.

I have thought it my Duty Sir to state these Matters with all humility for Your Majesty's consideration before I went to Bath where My Health makes it necessary for me to go, that If Your Majesty should think proper for me to Strike my Flag, My Successor may have the more time to prepare for service. I am ready to quit my command to Day or to preserve it as long as may be convenient for Your Majesty's Arrangements & Consistent with my own Honor, but I trust Your Majesty will see that my Reputation cannot continue safe in Hands who have Already done all they could to ruin it.

I beg leave to Assure Your Majesty that in all situations Public, or Private, it will ever be my most Zealous Desire to prove Myself, Your Majesty's Most Respectfull, Dutifull and Loyal Subject and Servant, A. Keppel.

February 25th 1779.

No. 2561—*The King to Lord North.*

Queens House. *Feby. 27th* 1779.

$\frac{m}{22}$ *pt.* 9. A.M.

Lord North—Yesterday Sir Grey Cooper informed me that a Cold and hoarseness obliged You to keep House, I thought any enquiry after You could only give trouble and obtain no further intelligence concerning Your health I therefore defferred sending till this morning; I trust You are submitting to some discipline as the most expeditious means of removing Your complaints.

No. 2562—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

Lord Sandwich has the honour to inform your Majesty that he has seen Ld North, & believes he has communicated to him everything he had in commands from your Majesty to say to him.

Lord North seems perfectly easy and in good spirits and (as he certainly ought) highly sensible of your Majesty's goodness to him. He will write to your Majesty to receive your orders when he shall wait on you to-morrow, & will before Monday take care that Ld Howe shall be sounded about taking the command of the fleet in case Admiral Keppell should strike his flag.

Lord Sandwich has also seen Mr. Robinson who will on his part do everything that is proper towards keeping Ld North in the right road, & making him feel the advantage he has from the protection of so gracious a Master.

ADMIRALTY
Feb: 27*th* 1779.

No. 2563—*The King to Lord North.*

QUEENS HOUSE, *Feby.* 27*th* 1779.
$\frac{m}{52}$ *pt.* 4 P.M.

LORD NORTH—If you should continue getting better, I hope You will call here at ten tomorrow morning.

No. 2564—*Lord Weymouth to the King.*

ARLINGTON STREET *Feb.* 28*th* 1779.
$\frac{m}{45}$ *past six* P.M.

In the answer which I intended to submitt to Your Majesty tomorrow to the address of the City of London, I purposed to take no notice of the last part of their address, as that has been done in the answers to their remonstrances; & as the avowed intention of their attending Your Majesty tomorrow, is for congratulation, I wou'd have confined the answer merely to the congratulatory part, If Your Majesty approves this mode it shall

be so prepared, if not, I will endeavour to make one in another manner, according to Your Majesty's directions.

No. 2565—*The King to Lord North.*

QUEENS HOUSE *March 1st* 1779.

$\frac{m}{30}$ *pt.* 6 P.M.

Lord North's letter Accounts for my not having yet received any intimation concerning Lord Howe ; I trust Mr. Doyley will have given You by this time notice ; I think it will probably end as the Offer of the Admiralty, and the sooner it is known the better that Lord Sandwich may have my directions to Sound Admiral Mann.

The person that has been going between Mr. Eden and the Keppel's is so exactly described by his letter that I make no scruple to say it can only be that busybody Col. Smith ; it is plain that the Admiral though pleased with his reception on friday suspects my being a party in the treatment he complains of ; the General's pretending that the paper is only levelled at the Admiralty is false for it mentions a change of Ministers in express and by name complains of Lord North ; certainly I cannot stoop to send for the Admiral if he had happened to come to Court I would have called him in and cooly asked him if he meant by his Paper to resign his Commission. By Smith's language it is to be seen if any thing is meant that if Keppel remains the General must also be invited ; but I am rather above courting these Gentlemen. Lord Howe will also play that Game which certainly shall prove equally abortive.

If Lord Howe would have come cordially into the Admiralty it might have been a popular Appointment ; but as he has added conditions that it would be disgraceful to grant, I am clear Lord Sandwich fills the Admiralty much better than any other Man in the Kingdom would, and that Mr. Eden keeps harping on that Subject from some cause I do not perceive but certainly no view that could essentially strengthen my Service.

The more I reflect on the part I have to cut the more I am convinced that if Keppel does not of himself come to Court that I ought to wait till he is at Bath and the Admiralty in such

method as may on consideration appear best get from Keppel when he will be able to Lead the Fleet, which will oblige him to speak out.

No. 2566—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of informing his Majesty, that the taxes upon travelling post etc. & the 5 pr Ct upon the amount of the Duties of Excise & Customs have pass'd the committee, with an exception to Beer, Soaps, Tallow Candles & Hides. In order to replace this defining Lord North is to move to take off the prohibition on the use of Cambricks, & to permit the use of them under the old Duties.

Downing Street.
Monday 1*st March* [1779].
¾ *pt.* 8 P.M.

Enclosure.

Speakers 1st March 1779
on Lord North's Motion for the Taxes on the Loan.

Lord North.	Mr. Burke.
Mr. Pulteney.	Mr. Fox.
Sir Rd. Sutton.	Mr. Dempster.
Mr. Cornwall.	Mr. Thomas Townshend.
	Mr. Bailey.

No division.

No. 2567—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of informing his Majesty, that Mr. Fox's motion that sending out Admiral Keppel with 20 ships of the Line only when the French had probably 32, & certainly 27 at Brest ready for sea was risking the safety of this Kingdom without the prospect of any adequate advantage, has been rejected after a long debate.

Ayes	170
Noes	204.

In the course of the day there was a long debate upon a point of order which was carried against the opposition

Ayes 208
Noes 169

Lord North is sorry to say there has been a very bad attendance today, & the opposition have conceived great hopes upon it.

DOWNING STREET, *March* 4 [1779]. $\frac{m}{25}$ *pt.* 1 A.M.

Enclosure.

3rd March 1779.

Speakers on Mr. Fox's Motion for Censure on the Admiralty for sending out Admiral Keppell with only Twenty sail of the Line when it appeared that the French were superior.

Mr. Fox opened the Business and desired to ask Adm[l] Keppell a few Questions before he made his Motion.
Adm[l] Keppell desired to explain himself thereon before he answd. the Questions.
Mr. Brett to order and desired that the Questions & Answers of the Adm[l] might be taken down by the Clerk.
Lord Howe to order thereon.
Mr. Dempster Do.
Mr. Fox.

Lord North to order opposing the takg down the Admirals Evidence as irregular.

For Mr. Brett's proposition.

Mr. Thos. Townshend to order for it & violent.
Mr. Dunning.
Mr. Dunning again on Ld North's explanation.

Agt. it.

The Speaker in the Chair agt. it as irregular.
Mr. Attorney General.
Mr. Cornwall.
Sir Grey Cooper.

For Mr. Brett's proposition.

Sir Wm Meredith moved a Question to take the Sense of the House which Mr Keppell's Answers should be taken down.

Sir George Saville on this Motion & the Amendmt.

Agt. it.

Lord North again upon it *in almost in all Cases ought to follow the Chair, or to have a Question* & intendg to move a Question on the dispute—called to order a great bustle & call to take down his Words &c.—Some Words taken down but not correct—Lord North permitted to Explain, on which it went off.

Lord North moved to amend S[r] Wm. Meredith's Motion by insertg—"No Inquiry having been instituted in the House"—Debate then gone onto [*sic*].

For S[r] Wm Meredith's Motn.

Mr. Fox
Mr. Brett
Lord J. Cavendish
Mr. Adair
Mr. Burke
Mr. Dempster callg on the Speaker in the Chair for his Opinion.
Mr. Thos Townshend
Genl. Conway
Sir Wm. Meredith
Sir George Yonge.

Agt. it.

Mr. Rigby
Lord Mulgrave
Mr. Attorney General
The Speaker from the Chair delivered his Opinion clearly & explicitly that such Proceeding in taking down Adml Keppells Evidence wou'd be irregular & improper.
Mr. Jenkinson
Coll. Onslow

The House divided—for the Amendmt Ayes 208
Noes 169.

Main Question put & carried.

	Agt. it.
Mr. Fox then opened his resolution of Censure & examined Adml Keppell & made his Motion.	Lord Mulgrave.
Admiral Keppell Sir Edwd Deering Lord Howe to ask Questions of Adml Keppell & for the Motion.	Lord North several times.

The House divided Ayes 170
Noes 204.

No. 2568—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 238.

Queens House *March 4th* 1779.
$\frac{m}{15}$ *pt.* 8 A.M.

Lord North cannot be surprised at my indignation at the number of persons who so shamefully avoided attending Yesterday which made the Majority so much less than it ought to have been; I trust You will get an accurate List of the Absent that every means may be tried to get their attendance on future occasions; the Opposition seem to have had the Numbers I have frequently heard You mention they would muster viz 170.

If you can devise any means I can personally take to assist in getting Persons to attend better You will find me most ready to addopt it.

No. 2569—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

Lord Sandwich has the honour of transmitting to your Majesty the letters received by the Packett from Admiral Barrington & Sir Peter Parker.

Lord Sandwich will not be able to attend at St. James's this day to receive your Majesty's commands, being obliged to

be early at the House of Lords on account of the Greenwich Hospital business.

Captain Walsingham went away yesterday without voting, & Lord Sandwich is told that Ld. Shuldham voted in the majority, as did Sir Laurence Dundas with all his friends.

ADMIRALTY *March 4th* 1779.

No. 2570—*Mr. Jenkinson to the King.*

I return your Majesty my humble Thanks for the Perusal of Admiral Keppels Paper; The Admiral certainly expresses in the strongest Terms His Disinclination to go again to Sea under your Majesty's present Ministers; but he does not actually resign His Flag, or say that He will resign it; He wishes to be able to say that He was turn'd out & would reduce your Majesty to the Dilemma either of dismissing Him or your Ministers; There is something very insidious in this Line of Conduct; & I humbly submit that in the future Conduct of this Business, care should be taken to make the striking His Flag His own Act as much as possible. It would indeed be more manly to set Him & all His Connections at once at Defiance, for most of Them are Enemies at heart, but we should thereby perhaps risk too much, as the minds of Men are disposed at present.

I have look'd over Mr. Robinson's Lists; I think that the Opposition cannot possibly add more than thirteen to the Numbers on the last Division; We may add a great many to our former Numbers, I should think near thirty with some Sollicitation & Trouble. I submit to your Majesty's consideration whether it may not be right to press the Ministers when your Majesty sees them today, to be very zealous, particularly those of the ancient Bedford Connection; for there are several of their Friends who were absent on the last day. The Opposition are very full of Spirits & Presumption.

The Attorney General was to be with Lord North last night; Mr. Robinson sends me word that He has no doubt, it was with a view to some Arrangement.

From Your Majesty's Dutyfull Subject C. JENKINSON.

March 5th [1779]
¼ *past* 10.

No. 2571—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of inclosing a state of the House on Wednesday with a List of the Members absent on that day. Mr. Robinson says it is as compleat as he can make it from all enquiries he has made & he imagines there are very few if any errors in it.

Downing Street *Mar.* 5. 1779.

No. 2572—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 239.

Queens House *March 5th* 1779.
$\frac{m}{20}$ *pt.* 6 P.M.

The list of the House of Commons has I trust been so accurately prepared, that there will be no difficulty in knowing whose attention must be quickened; I trust Lord North will not let his usual good nature accept excuses on this occasion; it is the good of my Service that calls forth Severity if on a proper hint a better attendance is not obtained; I hope Sir Ralph Payne has been strongly spoke to, and Mess. Doyley and Strachey; the like may not be thrown away on Charles Herbert who in himself is well inclined and if pressed will certainly go differently from his family; Lord Amherst has wrote to M. G. Morris, Lieut. Col. Laury, and Capt. Egerton, and will get the D. of Chandois [*sic*] to write for Sir Henry Paulet; I am strongly of opinion that the General Officers who through Parliamentary favour have got Governments, on opposing should lose them, this is very different from removing them from their Military Commissions. In short Lord North will find me resolved to take every strong measure to keep out a most dangerous faction.

No. 2573—*Mr. Jenkinson to the King.*

I take the liberty of sending your Majesty a Letter which I wrote to Lord North yesterday, & an Answer which I have

received from Mr. Robinson on that Subject. Part of Mr. Robinson's letter would hardly be intelligible, if I did not send your Majesty another Letter which I received from Mr. Robinson yesterday, with which I should not otherwise have presumed to trouble your Majesty ; These Letters will afford your Majesty some Insight into the present State of Things ; & will prepare your Majesty for any Thing that may be said to your Majesty tomorrow. I saw Lord Sandwich today who told me that His Canvas went on well, That Sr. Lawrence Dundas & his Connection would attend on every Question in which He was personally concern[d] that the Duke of Newcastle was zealous & would send all His Friends,—that the Grevilles were satisfied & would attend. Lord North has also been very active, so has Lord Amherst, & I must in justice to Mr. Robinson say that He has labour'd night & day. Lord Sandwich said that Lord Carlisle was very slack, & He imputed this to a Want of Zeal in Lord Gower, & He assign'd His reasons, in which I do not wholly agree with Him, but I will take the Liberty of saying more to your Majesty on this subject tomorrow.

The Opposition are very active. They flatter their Partisans & keep up their Spirits with Hopes of Success ; in which I have not the least doubt they will be mistaken. I hear however They have persuaded Admiral Keppel to continue in Town till Monday, though He expressly told me that He would go to Bath as today.

From Your Majesty's Dutyfull Subject C. Jenkinson.

March 6th 1779.
½ *past* 9 *o'clock.*

No. 2574—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of informing his Majesty That Mr. Fox's Motion to resolve, " *That it appears to this House that at the breaking out of the War The Fleet was unequal to what this House & the Nation were led to expect by the declaration of Ministers, & by the great grants of Parlt. & the Debts incur'd, & that it was inadequate to the various services for which it was the duty of Ministers to have provided at this important Crisis* " was

after a debate which lasted till Twelve o'clock at night rejected by a very good majority

Ayes 174
Noes 246

His Majesty will perceive that the attendance was much better than on the last question.

8th March 1779.

Speakers on Mr. Fox's Motion that the Navy was inadequate to the Services required.

For	Against
Mr. Fox moved	Lord Mulgrave
Lord Howe	Sir Richard Worsley
Admiral Keppell	Mr. Vyner
Sir Horace Mann	Mr. Adam for the previous Question but not seconded
Mr. Temple Lutterell	Lord North agt. the Main Question.
Mr. George Grenville	Sir Jas. Lowther agt. the Main question, but for an Inquiry, & therefore at present for the previous Question—and that not being put went away & wd. not vote.
Mr. Burke	
Major Stanley	
Lord John Cavendish	
Mr. Thos. Townshend	
Mr. Byng.	

The House divided Ayes 174
Noes 246

No. 2575—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 239.

Queens House *March 9th* 1779.

$\frac{m}{44}$ *pt.* 8 A.M.

It is impossible to be more satisfied than I am with the very handsome Majority of this Morning, it shews a zeal in the House of Commons that cannot but stimulate me to do my utmost to preserve this Country, but it is by this also not less evident how thoroughly Lord North must have spoke out to Members, which has opened their Eyes and will I trust with a little attention

towards them prevent his being ever again so thoroughly pressed. I wish to see the List of the Defaulters who have either Employments or Military Governments. Lord Howe may now be ranked in Opposition, and therefore I shall not say more on that head, the letter that Accompanies this will open my ideas unto Lord North. Does not the part taken by Sir James Lowther shew his is not so adverse as formerly, he in himself is scarce worth gaining but his followers would swell our list; if Johnston is brought round would he not be serviceable in this ?

No. 2576—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 240.

QUEEN'S HOUSE *March* 11*th* 1779.

$\frac{m}{25}$ *pt.* 9 P.M.

Lord North, would not have had any answer to his Box this Evening as it contained nothing that required it; but as he seemed to take the Contractors Bill as a personal affront, I could not refrain the pleasure of expressing my satisfaction at the rejection by so good a Majority considering the strange scruples many of the Country Gentlemen have harboured on that subject.

No. 2577—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of inclosing Mrs. Eden's Warrt. £910 paid at the Excheqr. produces no more than £600, but, as that sum is so considerable, Lord North thinks it right to send the Warrt. by itself instead of bringing it in the midst of other Warrants to be sign'd by his Majesty at St James's.

DOWNING STREET.
Mar: 13. 1779.

No. 2578—*The King to Lord North.*

QUEENS HOUSE *March* 13*th* 1779.

$\frac{m}{35}$ *pt.* 6 P.M.

LORD NORTH—I cannot dissemble that I was much Surprised at finding the Pension for Mrs. Eden amount to so large a Sum,

and I fear the making it by so broken a Sum will appear to be freeing it of taxes, and be a bad precedent, but as the Sum of Six hundred was mentioned if Lord North thinks it would be retracting what I had permitted him to mention, I will not object to the Sum; but I certainly never meant to grant a Pension for life; I meant Six hundred to make good Mr. Eden's losses, but not to make Mrs Eden independent by holding between himself and Mrs Eden near Sixteen hundred for life; when I mentioned the Pension to be held for Mrs Eden it was from knowing he would not have a Seat in Parliament holding a Pension during pleasure; Lord George Spencer held a pension during pleasure on the Irish Establishment whilst in Parliament when found out, the pension was granted in trust during pleasure for Lady George, this is what I meant for Mrs Eden; if once I grant Pensions for life I shall be torn to pieces for them therefore must not introduce any Inovation.

No. 2579—*Memorandum by the King.*

[? *March* 1779.]

Lord Howe		d'Estein's Fleet
64. Eagle	Curtis	1. 90 Guns.
64. Trident	Elliot	1. 84.
64. Somerset	Oury	5. 74.
64. St. Albans	Onslow	5. 64.
64. Ardent	Keppel	3. Frigates.
64. Nonsuch	Griffiths	
50. Chatham.	Hotham	
50. Isis	Rayner	
50. Experiment	Sir I. Wallis	
40. Roebuck	Hammond	
40. Phoenix	Parker	
14. Vigilant. 24 Pounders		
70. Leviathan	Tathwell.	

No. 2580—*Memorandum by Lord Sandwich.*

[*March*, 1779.]

Friends who did not vote in Mr. Fox's first Motion, but who will certainly be in the House to-morrow.

Ld. Bateman
Mr. Clevland
Mr. H. Conway
Mr. Chayter
Lt. John Coghill
Mr. Bowes
Mr. Cornwall
Mr. Coke
Mr. Delmé
Mr. Fitzherbert
Sir S. Fludyer
Mr. Hanger
Sir Geo. Howard
Ld. Lincoln
Sr. T. Marriott
Mr. Mellish
Gen. Morris
Mr. Methuen
Mr. Potter
Hon^ble^ Mr. Robinson
Sir Fred Rogers
Hon^ble^ Mr. Stuart
Mr. And^w^ Stuart
Sir John Henderson
Mr. Skelton
Mr. Shaftoe
Mr. Vyner
Mr. Gilbert
Mr. Whitshed
Mr. Hudson
Mr. Evelyn
Mr. Herbert
Mr. Hungerford
Sir R. Worseley
Mr. Eyre.

No. 2581—*Mr. Jenkinson to the King.*

I take the liberty of sending your Majesty the Draught of a Letter to Lord George Lenox, which Lord Amherst approves as your Majesty will see by the Inclosed Note from His Lordship; as for having made two Amendments in it respecting the Fact; It appears by this that Lord Amherst understood what passed in a different Light from what is represented by the Adjutant General.

Mr. Eden has written to Lord North signifying His consent to accept the Pension during pleasure; Your Majesty will probably hear more of this today.

From your Majesty's Dutyfull Subject C. Jenkinson.

March 19th [1779]
¼ *past* 10.

Enclosure No. 1.

Lord Amherst to Mr. Jenkinson.

WHITEHALL, *Friday* 19 *March,*
9 *o'clock.*

Lord Amherst presents his Compliments to Mr. Jenkinson, he did not read his letter till near twelve last night, when it was too late to return him the Memorial from Lord George Lenox with the Draught of an answer in obedience to His Majesty's Commands: Lord Amherst is much obliged to Mr. Jenkinson for sending the Draught as intended, for his perusal; he thinks it is perfectly right, but has offered two small Alterations in the Margin if Mr. Jenkinson should approve them, as he did not know the Regiment wished Lieut. Rose's absence, or could imagine they would disapprove of it.

Copy, in the King's handwriting.

Enclosure No. 2.

Mr. Jenkinson to Lord George Lennox.

MY LORD—In answer to the Memorial lately presented to the King by Your Lordship, I have it in Command from His Majesty to acquaint You, that it is by no means his wish or intention to change the mode of applying for Leaves of absence as laid down in the 6th Article of His Royal Instructions referred to by Your Lordship, but that this Rule was never meant to preclude the right which the Crown has always delegated to a General Commanding in Chief of granting Leaves of Absence upon extraordinary Occasions, when the Special circumstances shall render it proper in His opinion to grant them.

With regard to the particular instance of Lieut. Rose, His Majesty having made enquiry into it, has learnt from Lord Amherst that from the manner in which the Application was made to him through the Adjutant General, He was led to think that in complying with it, He was promoting the good of the Service; but that on finding from Your Lordship's letter Lieut. Rose's remaining at Windsor was disapproved by Your Lordship and Your Field Officers, Lord Amherst instantly recalled the Leave He had granted, showing thereby how little it was his

desire to act contrary to Your Lordship's wishes on this Occasion or to depart from the general Rule of obliging Officers to apply through the Colonel, or Field Officer Commanding at Quarters, as best able to judge what Officers can properly be spared from the Regiment.

I have the honor to be &c. (Signed) CHAS. JENKINSON.

Copy, in the King's handwriting.

No. 2582—*Mr. Jenkinson to the King.*

The Alterations made by Lord Amherst in the Draught of the Letter to Lord George Lenox; appear'd to me to require another small Alteration in the subsequent part of the letter; I mention'd this to Lt Gen[l] Amherst & beg'd He would shew it to Lord Amherst for his Approbation; He answer'd it was not necessary & that He would be responsible that His Brother would approve of it, but as the Letter is thus far different from the Draught I sent your Majesty this Morning, though the Difference is very small, it became my Duty to submit it again to your Majesty for your Consideration & Approbation before I signed it.—The Words that are added are scored underneath with a Pencil & make the Letter more civil to Lord George Lenox.

From your Majesty's Dutyfull Subject, C. JENKINSON.

March 19th, 1779.
½ *past* 3.

No. 2583—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of informing his Majesty, that Ld. Newhaven's proposition of allowing the direct importation of sugars into Ireland has fail'd today upon the question that the Speaker do leave the chair.

Ayes 58
Noes 62.

Lord North has the honour of inclosing a letter just received from Mr. Wentworth.

DOWNING STREET, *Mar.* 19 [1779].
¾ *pt.* 8 P.M.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2584—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

Lord Sandwich has the honour to send to your Majesty a letter of resignation from Captain Leveson.

Judging it advisable that a vacancy of this sort should be filled up without a moments delay, the Board have appointed Captain Goodall to the command of the Valiant which we flatter ourselves will meet with your Majesty's approbation.

Ld. Mulgrave does not think that these resignations will be followed by any others, unless Sir John Lindsay & Captain Jarvis should pursue the example, of which he seems very doubtfull.

Lord Sandwich has seen Admiral Darby who is highly sensible of the mark of favour your Majesty has shewn him in thinking him worthy to be entrusted with the command of a division of the Western Squadron, which he accepts with chearfullness & with a due sense of gratitude.

ADMIRALTY
March 20th 1779.

No. 2585—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 241.

QUEENS HOUSE *March 22nd* 1779.
$\frac{m}{2}$ *pt.* 6 P.M.

The family of the late Earl of Suffolk may depute anyone they please to deliver the Ensigns of the Garter unto me as the next heir Mr. Thomas Howard has declined bringing them unto me; the Person who in this case appears the natural channel is Lord Aylesford.

I have directed a letter to [be] prepared in answer to the one of congratulation on the taking of Pondicherry which the Nabob of Arcot sent with the Account of that Success, and will direct the Ensigns of the Order of the Bath to be transmitted by the Messenger the East India [Company] is dispatching with the

other instruments, and Col. Munro shall be invested in the like manner as Sir John Lindsay was at Madrass.

Lord North will direct a patent to be prepared creating Mr. Rumbold a Baronet, which also may go by the same conveyance.

No. 2586—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 242.

QUEENS HOUSE *March* 23*rd* 1779.

$\frac{m}{34}$ *pt.* 8 A.M.

The Division of last Night was so considerable that I should hope if care is taken to keep people in Town that trials of strength will cease though Debates will be carried on after the recess, though if the Minority find they do not gain ground they will soon be tired of vain talking.

By an intercepted letter of Bancrofts received last night to Mr. Walpole it seems certain Ternay is not to go to the East Indies, sure a frigate ought to be sent after Sir Ed. Hughes to recall three of his Ships; the reinforcement was ordered on account of the Strength of the French Squadron now that has been changed we in consequence ought not to put three Ships out of reach.

No. 2587—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of informing his Majesty that there have been two divisions in the House to-day.

The first upon a Motion for printing the Extraordinaries of the Army.

Ayes 104
Noes 136

The second upon a Motion for censuring the Ministry for not sending a reinforcement to Lord Howe.

Ayes 126
Noes 209.

DOWNING STREET
Mar. 23 [1779]. 1 *o'clock* A.M.

Enclosure.

22nd March 1779

Speakers on Mr. Fox's Motions ; That it was Misconduct in not sending out a reinforcement to Lord Howe before the Month of June 1778 ;—And that Fleet ought to have been sent out to the Mediterranean.

For	Against
Mr. Fox opened the Questions and moved the first.	Lord Mulgrave
Mr. Byng Seconded Him.	Lord North
Mr. Burke.	Mr. Vyner
Lord Howe.	Lord Advocate
Mr. Thos. Townshend.	Lord George Germain
Genl. Johnstone.	Sir John Wriottesley
Mr. Barre.	
General Conway.	

The House divided Ayes 126
Noes 209

The Second Motion Negatived without a Division.

No. 2588—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

Lord Sandwich has the honour to transmitt to Your Majesty a Copy of the letter recieved this day from Admiral Keppell.

Lord Sandwich has seen Admiral Campbell whose language & disposition is everything that can be wished : he condemns Admiral Keppell greatly for mixing Politicks with his profession ; acknowledges that Government cannot go on if Military people are to point out who shall or shall not be the Kings Ministers ; & is very ready to serve whenever Your Majesty thinks proper to command him.

Admiralty *March 23rd* 1779.

No. 2589—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

Admiralty *March* 23. 1779.

Lord Sandwich has the honour to inform Your Majesty that Captain Fielding is arrived in the Pearl from Antigua which place he left the 16th of February. All the material news he brings is that d'Estaing with his fleet is blocked up at Martinico, he once came out with his whole fleet, but soon returned to his Port; the Pomona was arrived before Captain Fielding sailed, and Rowley hourly expected.

Ld. Sandwich sends herewith a sketch of the attack upon Admiral Barringtons fleet at S^{ta} Lucia.

No. 2590—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of informing his Majesty, That the whole time of the House of Commons to-day was taken up by debating upon the proposal for paying the Troops on the Irish Establishment serving abroad. There was some debate before the Speaker left the Chair, & some in the Committee, though there never appeared to be a serious intention in any part of the House to divide against the Motion, which finally passed without a division, but the time, which had been consumed, obliged the House to defer the consideration of the Extraordinaries till Friday.

Downing Street

Wednesday even^{g} Mar. 24 [1779] $\frac{m}{20}$ *pt.* 9 P.M.

Enclosure No. 1.

24th March 1779.

Speakers on a debate which arose previous to the Speakers leaving the Chair to go into a Committee to vote the payment of the Troops lately paid by Ireland now serving in America.

Mr. D. Hartley abt. the Provincial Troops charged in the Extraordinaries.

Lord George Germain

Lord North on the same subject

Sr. Wm. Meredith—Do. as unconstitutional.
Mr. Burke.
Lord John Cavendish Objectg. to go into the Committee to vote the pay for the Troops on the Irish Establishment, now servg. in America.
Mr. Fox.
Mr. Thos. Townshend.
Mr. Burke.
Mr. George Rous.
Sir George Yonge.
Sir George Saville.

Mr. Jenkinson to answer the Objection agt. going into a Committee on y^e^ Bus^s^ of the Troops.
Lord Beauchamp
Lord Newhaven.
Lord Nugent.

Question to leave the Chair carried without a Division.

Enclosure No. 2.

Speakers in the Committee.

For	Against it.
Mr. Jenkinson moved the resolution for the Troops.	Lord John Cavendish
Lord Beauchamp	Mr. Burke.
Lord Newhaven	Mr. Thos. Townshend.
Mr. Barre	Sir Edwd. Astley
Mr. Rigby	Mr. Dempster
	Mr. Burke joing. at last in the Motion.

Question carried without a Division. Also the Question for the Sutherland Fencible Men.

No. 2591.

House of Commons.

26th March 1779.

Speakers on the Question moved by Mr. Hartley that it be an Instruction to the Commee of Supply on the Extraordinaries not to provide for the Money in the Extraordinaries charged as

Issued to Messrs. Harley & Drummond, on Account of the provincial Corps being established without the Authority of Parliament.

For the Instruction.	Against it.
Mr. David Hartley	Lord North
Mr. Hussey	Mr. Cornwall
Mr. Thos. Townshend	Sir Adam Ferguson
Mr. Burke	General Conway
Mr. Brett	Sir Grey Cooper
Sir Philip J. Clarke	Sir Richard Sutton
Mr. Barre	Sir Wm. Howe
Mr. Fox	Mr. Rigby
Mr. Dempster	
Lord John Cavendish	

Question put and carried in the Negative without a Division.

The Speaker left the Chair and the House went into the Committee of Supply.

In the Committee Speakers.

For.	Against
Mr. Jenkinson moved the resolution for grantg. the Extraordinaries.	Mr. Barre moved to report some progress & to sit again.
Lord North	Mr. Burke.
Mr. Cornwall	Lord Newhaven
Sir Wm. Howe	Genl. Burgoyne
Mr. Harley	Mr. Brett
Mr. Rigby	Mr. Fox
	Mr. Hussey

The Question put to leave the Chair to report some Progress & to move to sit again.

Carried in the Negative without a Division. The main Question put and carried in the Affirmative without a Division—to be reported on Monday next.

No. 2592—*Mr. Jenkinson to the King.*

I take the Liberty of sending to your Majesty a letter which I received last night from Lord George Lenox, as your Majesty will see by it that His Dispute with Lord Amherst is fortunately brought to a Conclusion.

I have not yet shewn this Letter to Lord Amherst, but I will send it to Him, when I receive it back from your Majesty.

From your Majesty's Dutyfull Subject C. Jenkinson.

March 27th [1779].
½ *past* 10.

Enclosure.

Lord G. Lennox to the Secretary at War.

Stoke 24*th March* 1779.

Sir—I had the honour the day before yesterday to receive Your letter of the 19th and beg the favour of You to express in the most respectful terms on my part the high and grateful sense I have of the notice the King has been graciously pleased to take of my memorial, and after which it would be presumption in me to trespass any more on His Majesty's time, yet I should think myself happy if You had an opportunity of explaining to His Majesty that I never had a doubt of Lord Amherst's right to give leave of absence to whatever Officers he thought proper, what I represented against was that in the present Instance that power was Exerted by His Lordship not when of his own accord he chose to order an Officer on any Duty He judged necessary for the good of the Service, but at the request of an Officer who was acting contrary to the 6th Article of the Royal Instructions, by which means Lieut. Rose who was acting in absolute disobedience to His Majesty's positive orders, carried his point against his Commanding Officer who was endeavouring to Support the King's regulations, which point out the Field Officers as the only channel for such applications to go through, and the necessity of which evidently appears on this occasion when it is allowed that for want of it Lord Amherst was misled, which would not have happened had his Lordship at first done me the honour to have enquired of me about it, or even have listened

to the representation I made to him on the Subject, instead of giving me no other answer than that he should dispense with the usual forms when he thought there was occasion for it, which of course implied that the present instance was included in that idea, especially as not one word was mentioned of Lieut. Rose's leave being recalled, in consequence of which I so little doubted Lord Amherst's right of giving him leave that I entirely looked on him as out of the reach of my command, and Your letter is the first intimation I have of the disposition it seems Lord Amherst has shewn of discouraging what was disagreeable to the regiment; for how was it possible for me to guess at his Lordship's having such intentions when he was silent to me upon them in every respect except in informing me that he should exert his right when he saw occasion for it. Had Lord Amherst been so good as to have explained himself at all to me, or only told me that what had passed would be sett right if disapproved of by the Regiment, the whole of this disagreeable transaction would have been avoided.

I have the honour to be Sir Your most Obedient Humble Servant GEO: HEN: LENNOX.

Copy, in the King's handwriting.

No. 2593—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of informing his Majesty, that an amendment proposed by Mr. Burke to the vote of Extraordinaries was rejected today by a considerable majority.

Ayes 78
Noes 142.

Sir Wm. Howe moved to fix a day for taking into consideration the papers he called for & for several witnesses to attend upon the latter question, the House divided upon a point of order, when Lord North was unfortunately in the Minority though he agreed with the Speaker & the Clerk. Most of the friends of Government had left the House.

Ayes 77
Noes 66

Enclosure.

29th March 1779.

Speakers on bringg. up the Report of the Resolution to grant the Extraordinaries.

For it.	Against it.
Mr. Harley	Mr. Hussey
Mr. Cornwall	General Burgoyne
Mr. Eden	Mr. Fox
Lord North	Mr. Thos. Townshend
Sir Grey Cooper	Mr. George Johnstone
	Mr. Burke
	Mr. Barre.

Report brought up without any Division.

Mr. Robinson was during part of this Debate with the Lord Chancellor at the House of Lords and No Acct. of the Debate being kept by Sir Grey Cooper ; Mr. Robinson is not sure that the above List is quite correct.

Question that the Resolutions for the Extraordinaries be now read

For it	Against it
Lord North	Mr. Fox
	Mr. Pulteney
	Mr. Burke

Question carried without a Division.

Resolution read Amendment moved by Mr. Burke to leave out the Bills drawn by Mr. Stuart House divided without Debate

Ayes for Amend[t]	78
Noes	142

Resolutions agreed to.

Speakers on Sir William Howe's Motion for a Day to consider the American papers presented to the House.

For the Motion.	Against it.
Sir Wm. Howe—moved	Col[l] Onslow
Lord Howe—seconded	Lord Advocate

For the Motion.	Against it.
Mr. Sawbridge.	Lord Nugent
Mr. Thos. Townshend	Lord Frederick Campbell
Genl. Burgoyne	
Mr. Dempster	
Mr. Fox	
Mr. Burke	
Mr. Price	

Question carried without a Division.

Sir Wm. Howe then moved for Witnesses to attend the House on that Day.

For the Motion.	Against it.
Sir Wm. Howe	Lord North
Mr. Dempster	
Sir George Yonge	
Mr. Fox	
Mr. Thos. Townshend	
Mr. Burke	

The House divided Ayes 77
Noes 66

After which Sir Wm. Howe moved for the Attendance of several Witnesses.

No. 2594—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 242.

QUEENS HOUSE *March 30th* 1779.
$\frac{m}{20}$ *pt.* 9 A.M.

Lord North's Account of the considerable Majority for rejecting Mr. Burke's amendment to the Vote of Extraordinaries gave me much pleasure. I even thought the Howes would when once they had got the Papers into the House of Commons insist on having them taken into consideration, though they certainly denied at it [*sic*] to get them. I hope the friends of Government will by the little repulse of last night learn to be less hasty in quitting the House, Opposition can now gain no question but by outstaying the Majority.

No. 2595—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 243.

QUEENS HOUSE *March 30th* 1779.
$\frac{m}{8}$ *pt.* 6 P.M.

The papers transmitted by Lord North are very curious, I now begin to credit the supposition that the Court of Spain will not take part in the War.

I return the papers concerning the Houses on the ground purchased of Sir Charles Sheffield ; Lord North has done perfectly right in not granting any unoccupied ground as it may be an object in time to increase the Stables which would otherwise occasion the repurchasing it ; the Estate being now in the Public the rents ought to be received for that purpose.

No. 2596—*Mr. Jenkinson to the King.*

I have been prevented by a bad Cold paying my Duty to your Majesty to-day, as I intended.

I was in hopes that the Dispute with Lord George Lenox was quite at an End, but I received yesterday a letter from His Lordship, which I send your Majesty herewith ; I consulted upon it the Adjutant General & I last night return^{d} an Answer to His Lordship which I take the Liberty also of sending to your Majesty, I begin to think that Lieut. Rose is very much to blame. I add Lord Amherst's Note to me upon my communicating to Him Lord George Lenox's first Letter, which I forgot to bring with me to St. James's on Sunday last.

Lord Huntingdon brought me this morning a very sensible letter from Lord Rawdon of a late Date, containing more Information on the present State of America, than any Letter I have happend. to see. I think it right therefore to send it to your Majesty ; especially as He says at the End of it, that He had shewn it to Sr. Henry Clinton who acknowledged that it containd. His sentiments on this important Subject.

I hear today that Lord North is determined to propose Lord Hilsborough to your Majesty as Secretary of State & that He is

very earnest to make this Arrangement. He complains bitterly of Lord Weymouth's Coldness & not drawing cordially with Them; The Chancellor has complaind. also, but with more reserve; & Lord Gower & Lord Weymouth divided yesterday in the Minority against the Chancellor. May I presume to suggest whether it might not be proper for your Majesty to see the Chancellor & to discourse with Him to the bottom on this Business.

From your Majesty's Dutyfull Subject C. JENKINSON.

March 31*st* 1779.
½ *past* 4.

No. 2597—*Lord Weymouth to the King.*

ST. JAMES'S.
April 1*st*, 1779.

The enclosed letter and Papers were delivered to me yesterday by General Honeywood, requesting that they may be laid before your Majesty.

No. 2598—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

ADMIRALTY.
April 1*st* 1779.

Lord Sandwich has the honour to inform your Majesty that he had an interview two days ago with Sir Robert Harland when he dropped to him your Majesty's gracious intentions of giving him the next vacant red ribbon; upon his seeming rather to decline that honour, Lord Sandwich pressed him to continue in the service without any immediate mark of your Majesty's favour, to which he listened very attentively & desired a day or two to consider before he gave an answer: that answer came last night, and your Majesty will percieve that L^{d} Sandwich's representations to Sir Robert have had the desired effect.

Your Majesty will allso recieve herewith a very proper letter from Sir John Lindsay. Lord Sandwich has not yet recieved an answer from Sir John Ross, but has seen a letter that he has written to Mr. Ross the Agent in which are the following words. "I am favoured with yours informing me of Admiral Keppells

declaration in Parliament and that we shall soon have another Admiral appointed to command the channel fleet; this is certainly no time for faction when our country demands our services."

As the misfortune that has happened in L^d^ Hinchingbrook's family will prevent L^d^ Sandwich from paying his duty to your majesty for some days he takes the liberty to send some Marine commissions & the letters & memorial of the Marine Corps which he mentioned lately to your Majesty: there is allso a letter from Lieutenant Trollop giving an account of two smart actions he has had with ships of very superior force.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2599—*Lord Amherst to the King.*

The Duke of Ancaster has this moment been with me to desire he may have your Majesty's leave to go to North America, to Sir Henry Clinton, as he served as his Aid de Camp: The Regiment the Duke is in, being in the West India Islands. I told him I would lay His Request before Your Majesty; the Duke wishing to go with the Convoy that is on the point of sailing, or the first opportunity. Your Majestys Commands of this day 25^m^ after 10 shall be duly obeyed. AMHERST.

2*nd Aprill* [1779]
3 *o'clock* P.M.

No. 2600—*Lord Amherst to the King.*

The enclosed intelligence is this moment come to hand which Lord Amherst thinks proper to Lay before His Majesty. The Letter is from the Lieutenant Governor of Guernsey enclosing a Copy of what, Lord Amherst supposes, he had received from the Lieutenant Governor of Jersey.

3^rd^ *Aprill* [1779]
11 *o'clock* A.M.

No. 2601—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

ADMIRALTY.
April 3rd 1779.

In answer to your Majesty's question whither Mr. Johnston has accepted the Alexander, Lord Sandwich has the honour to inform your Majesty that that ship is kept vacant till he gives his answer; he is allso told that he may have the command of some frigates on the Lisbon station, himself in a 50 gun ship with a broad Pendant & a Captain under him; to neither of these proposals he has yet agreed, tho' he has been in possession of them ever since Monday last.

In a letter that Ld Mulgrave has this moment recieved from Mr. Robinson is the following paragraph. "Ld North has seen Mr. Johnstone & tells me that he thinks he will accept, as he seemed to be in very good humour; but his Lordship has not enabled me to say so positively & directly, & that has kept me from writing to Lord Sandwich with any precision."

No. 2602—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

ADMIRALTY.
April 4th 1779.

That your Majesty may be informed of every minute circumstance relative to the present state of this department, Ld Sandwich takes the liberty to send a letter he has this moment recieved from Ld Mulgrave, after his having had an interview with Lord North at Bushy in his way to Portsmouth. The latter part of Ld Mulgraves letter is out of Lord Sandwich's line of business, therefore he begs your Majesty would not think that he has the least idea of meddling in that transaction.

Lord Mulgrave, it is [to] be supposed, has told Ld North that he cannot sit at the Board of Admiralty with Mr. Johnstone, & that it is absolutely necessary that some flag officer should be among us; to give an appearance to the world that he is not the only person who directs the Naval part of our business & he thinks it extremely material that a prevailing opinion should be silenced before the Court Martial sits, namely, that Sir Hugh Pallissers

seat at the Board is kept open in order to his being reinstated if he is acquitted upon his trial.

The proposition about the Romney is that Captain Montagu now the Commander of that ship should have the America, and that Mr. Johnstone should have the Romney with the Command at Lisbon; L[d] Longford to quit the America & go into the Alexander. If Lord Sandwich could be permitted to attend your Majesty any time tomorrow either morning or evening, he might receive your commands upon several points consequent to this business.

Your Majesty will find in the box a draught of the order which has been signed by the Board, for assembling a Court Martial to try Sir Hugh Pallisser. Your Majesty will observe that it is directed to Admiral Darby & not to Sir Charles Hardy: this order has been drawn under the inspection & with the approbation of the Lord Chancellor.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2603—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

Lord Sandwich has the pleasure to send your Majesty an account of a very gallant action of the Captain of the Delight Sloop, having taken a French Privatier of very superior force, & pursued his voyage afterwards with the dispatches for Sir Edward Hughes.

ADMIRALTY.
April 5[th] 1779.

The Delight has 14 guns & 125 men.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2604—*Lord Weymouth to the King.*

ST. JAMES'S.
April 5[th] 1779.

In obedience to your Majesty's commands, I take the liberty of submitting the inclosed draught to Sir Joseph Yorke to your Majesty's consideration this day, that there may be time to

receive any commands your Majesty may please to honor me with before the Post of tomorrow.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2605—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of inclosing to his Majesty some intelligence from France which he thinks may in a good measure be depended upon. The Surgeon of the Minerva who was returning to Europe in a merchant ship was carried into Brest, & after being detained there three weeks was released on the 24 of March. He says, when he left Brest, there were 26 ships of the line there which would be ready to sail in the course of this month.

The 25 ships of the Line mentioned by the writer of the inclosed intelligence to have been at Brest on the 18th March comprehend Mr. de la Motte Piquet's squadron of six ships of the Line, the two ships returned from Mr. de Grasse & the Indien.

Lord North having been much pressed to go down to Dover & to attend a Harbour Session there this spring thinks no time so convenient as the present, & has appointed the Session to-morrow. He will not fail to return to London time enough to be at the Drawing Room on Thursday next. He hopes that this arrangement will not be inconvenient to his Majesty.

Bushy Park.
April 8th 1779.
7 *o'clock* A.M.

No. 2606—*Mr. Jenkinson to the King.*

I humbly submit to your Majesty's consideration the Draught of a Letter to Major General Munro in answer to one He wrote to my Predecessor Lord Barington; I thought it proper & civil to make Lord Amherst a Party to this Letter, & to send it to His Lordship for His consideration, before I sent it to your Majesty for your approbation, & I trouble your Majesty with His Lordship's letter to me upon it.

There is another point, which I submitted to His consideration & on which I have great doubts; It is whether it would be proper to say anything in your Majesty's name on the Behaviour of the Troops under His Command which Gen[l] Munro commends in His Letter to the Secretary at War in the strongest terms: They are not Troops in your Majesty's immediate pay, but they are paid out of revenues, which in truth belong to your Majesty & they are a part of the Force of your Majesty's Dominions; If I was to add anything it should be in these Words.

"And His Majesty heard with great satisfaction that the Troops under your Command acted with the most determined resolution on all occasions."

Mr. Robinson has just told me that L[d] North went to S[t] James today intending again to mention L[d] Hilsborough to your Majesty for the vacant seats & to propose S[r] Charles Hardy for the vacant Seat at the Admiralty, Governour Johnston being satisfied with having the Lisbon Station.

From your Majesty's Dutyfull Subject, C. JENKINSON.

Apr. 8[th] 1779.

$\frac{m}{45}$ *past* 3.

No. 2607—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has, in obedience to his Majesty's commands, been to wait upon S[r] Charles Hardy, & has the honour of informing his Majesty that he declines the board of Admiralty unless he can have it as S[r] Hugh Pallisser had it conjointly with the Lieutenant Generalship of the Marines. He says, that his family will suffer by the diminution of his income, if he quits Greenwich Hospital, & has only a seat at the Admiralty in exchange. He hopes, therefore, to be put exactly on the footing of S[r] Hugh Palliser to which he thinks he may aspire without any impropriety considering his rank in the service.

As Lord North found him apparently fix'd in his opinion, He took his leave without being able finally to settle anything with him.

DOWNING STREET.
April 9. 1779.

$\frac{m}{45}$ *pt.* 3. P.M.

No. 2608—*Mr. Jenkinson to the King.*

The Inclosed letter from S^r^ Henry Clinton came by the N. York Mail that arrived today. It states no Objection to the Appointment of Dr. North to be Super Intendant of the Hospital in America, except the Pretensions of Mr. Mallet as urged in His Memorial; I have sent to ask Mr. Davis' opinion on this subject; and He has sent me word that He thinks Mr. Mallet every way improper for this office; The Appointment also of Dr. North had been previously determined by L^d^ G. Germaine & Lord Barington, if it met with S^r^ Henry Clinton's approbation; & Dr. North is on board the Fleet at Spithead going to America with this view: As there is a chance therefore that the Inclosed Instructions may be Received by Him before He sails, if sent away immediately, I presume to send them to your Majesty for your Royal Signature, that in such case I may dispatch them by the Post tonight with the other Papers.

From your Majesty's Dutyfull Subject, C. Jenkinson.

Apr. 10^th^ 1779.
8 *o'Clock.*

No. 2609—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of informing his Majesty that a Clerk of the Session in Scotland is dead, & that the Duke of Argyll has made application for Mr. Colquhoun as this is the point which the Duke has so much at heart, he submit to his Majesty that, supposing Mr. Colquhoun unobjectionable, this promotion may put his Grace in good humour, & remove his ill-founded idea of being neglected & slighted by Government.

Bushy Park.
April 11. 1779.

No. 2610—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North was extremely sorry that he was prevented by pressing business, which detained him at the Treasury Board, from paying his duty yesterday at St. James's but he will endeavour to attend his Majesty today after the Levee.

In the mean while, unless Lord Sandwich is removed to the Secretary of State for the Northern department, or some alteration [be made] in the present form of the great offices to both which there appear, at present, considerable objections, He humbly takes the liberty to recommend to his Majesty for the Northern or Southern Seats (after Lord Weymouth has made his choice) the E: of Hillsborough. He thinks he ought to mention him on this occasion on account of the steady attachment he has continued to shew to Government since his resignation, & to the hopes which he has had reason to entertain of being promoted to the first vacancy of a Cabinet place. He has not had any conversation with Lord Hillsborough, nor intends it till he has received his Majesty's pleasure.

Downing Street.
April 16. 1779.

No. 2611—*The King to Lord North.*

Queens House.
April 6*th* 1779.
$\frac{m}{10}$ *pt.* N.

Lord North—I cannot have the smallest doubt of the Propriety of keeping Lord Sandwich in his present Employment, and even saying that at this hour no person is so well qualified for holding it; consequently that, what now remains is to find a proper Secretary of State; I am very clear that Lord Hillsborough will be a very attentive one, and his American Sentiments make him acceptable to me, indeed I could never decline receiving him into my Service but as Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, but, before Lord North arranges this, he must somehow see Lord Carlisle is not offended; I fear Lord North's language to him will give rise to this unless he is somehow satisfied and the disobliging Lord Gower ought certainly to be avoided; by this I do not mean that Lord Carlisle ought to be Secretary in preference to Lord Hillsborough, but that a office of business of a Secondary kind ought to be found for him.

No. 2612—*Mrs. Alicia Mathew to the King.*

S^R—Encouraged by your Majesty's humanity and goodness, I beg leave to throw myself at your feet, and implore your royal protection.

The danger and distress to which I have lately seen my husband, my self, and my small family, expos'd will I think pardon the liberty I take in begging your Majesty to secure us from the like misfortune, which we may be liable to at the approaching general election, unless your Majesty should be graciously pleased so to dispose of Mr. Mathew, that he may be out of the reach of his inveterate enemies.

His affection, and loyalty, to your Majestys person, and government, are publicly known, and certain it is, your Majesty has not a more dutiful subject, or a more faithful servant, his family is ancient, and his landed property in possession, and reversion, inferior to very few estates of the nobility of the first rank in your Majesty's kingdom of Ireland, should your Majesty think him worthy to be promoted to the Peerage of the Kingdom of Ireland I can answer that it will be his constant study and endeavour to prove himself worthy of that distinguished honor by showing on every occasion his gratitude and the high sense he entertains of your Majesty's goodness to him & his family.

As the motives for this address, are founded on the apprehension of the danger to which an affectionate husband may again be expos'd, and the consequent distress to an infant family, I trust to your Majestys compassion to pardon the presumption and excuse the inability of a much agitated & distressed wife and afflicted & anxious parent.

I have the honor to be S^r Your Majestys most dutiful and most obedient humble servant ALICIA MATHEW.

CLEVELAND COURT.
April 19. 1779.

No. 2613—*Mr. Jenkinson to the King.*

I received early this morning the Inclosed letter from Mr. Robinson, the Contents of which I own astonish me, & there are

parts which I do not comprehend, but as it appears to me to have been written with an Intention that I should shew it to your Majesty, I think it right to send it ; When I hear any thing more on these subjects, I will not fail to inform your Majesty of them ; It is clear that the Attorney as well as Mr. Eden want something & that Lord North is not to be allow'd to do anything till that something is obtain'd. At first it was said that the Attorney would resign if Lord Stormont was appointed Secretary of State ; It is now said (as they find that your Majesty has approved of L[d] Hilsborough) that the Attorney will resign, if Lord Hilsborough is Secretary of State ; I humbly submit to your Majesty whether it will not be right to order Lord North to fill up this office *instantly* with Lord Hilsborough or some one else for as long as it is open, it will be the subject of perpetual Intrigue & some Jobb or other will be built upon it.

From your Majesty's Dutyfull Subject, C. JENKINSON.

April 19*th*. 1779.
10 *o'Clock*.

No. 2614—*Lord North to the King.*

[20 *April*, 1779.]

Lord North has the honour of informing his Majesty, that the declaration he proposed to insert in the Dissenter's Bill has been carried in the Committee upon the Bill.

Ayes. 88.
Noes. 58.

No. 2615—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 245.

QUEENS HOUSE.
April 21[st] 1779.
$\frac{m}{32}$ *pt.* 7. P.M.

It is impossible to be more pleased than I am with the very frank manner in which Lord North opened himself to me on the present ill humour of the Attorney General, it had the appearance of unbosoming to a friend ; it is that has induced me to state as shortly as I can, how I think Lord North can best supply this

deficiency, and Honestly think he may conduct public business with much more personal comfort to himself, for Lord North is much above any little intrigue which certainly is very prevalent in the composition of the Attorney General and still more so in that of his pupil Mr. Eden ; what I have to recommend is that Lord North would place his chief political confidence in the Chancellor who is a very firm and fair Man, will if called upon give on any business his sentiments, yet not ambitious of going out of his own particular line, therefore will not attempt the part of a Mentor which the two other Gentlemen have but too much aimed at not to have caused Lord North much uneasiness and every quarrel could only be healed by some job. Let the Lord Advocate be gained to attend the whole Session and let him have the confidence concerning measures in Parliament but not concerning the filling of Employments, which might as in the former mode give trouble.

Draft and fair copy in the King's handwriting.

No. 2616—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

Lord Sandwich has the honour to send your Majesty the best list that Mr. Strutt & he can make out, of the majority on Friday last ; your Majesty will observe that there are two more than they ought to be, but we think we are certain as to the whole number except the Bishop of London & Litchfield, & yet L^{d} Sandwich thinks they voted having seen them very late in the House.

Lord Sandwich hopes your Majesty will forgive the blunder of his Secretary who omitted half the names yesterday in the list. Your Majesty will find enclosed a letter from the Captain of a Privatier, at which L^{d} Sandwich is a good deal alarmed, as the Ramillies is not yet arrived, nor heard of since the 15th instant.

Possibly there may have been a mistake in telling the House, & two not counted, as L^{d} Chesterfield is but a young Teller.

Admiralty.
April 25th 1779.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2617—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

ADMIRALTY.
April 27th 1779.

Lord Sandwich has the honour to send your Majesty the Dispatches brought by Admiral Gambier who arrived early this morning in London.

Lord Sandwich sends a private letter to Mr. Stephens which contains all the information that is received concerning the Court Martial; the first part of that letter relates to a request which was made by the members of the Court Martial that they might have a table kept for them.

Lord Sandwich adds some papers relative to the business in the House of Lords on Friday last, with a list of the majority which is now beyond doubt authenticated.

No. 2618—*Mr. Robinson to the King.*

Mr. Robinson has the Honour to transmit to your Majesty, the Letters which have been received this Day during the Sitting of the Treasury Board from Mr. Wier; and also a Letter from General Elliot relative to the State of Provisions at Gibraltar: No Letter has been received to the Treasury from Sir Henry Clinton, except a Duplicate of an old Letter from him containing a requisition for 400,000£ for the extraordinary Services of his Army.

TREASURY CHAMBERS,
27th *April* 1779.
$\frac{m}{30}$ *p* 6° P.M.

No. 2619—*Mr. Jenkinson to the King.*

I trouble your Majesty with the Papers in this Box & with four Establishments for your Royal Signature.

I have seen Mr. Robinson, who tells me that some of Mr. Wedderburne's Friends earnestly press that He should be Secretary of State & that Lord North has authorised Him to sound the

Attorney upon it; that, if they cannot succeed in this, their Desire is at all events to prevent Lord Hilsborough being Secretary of State, & for this purpose Mr. Eden has been to sound L^d^ Rochford, whether He would accept the Seals, who has answered that if he is wanted upon Emergency, He will take them for two months.

L^d^ North has also authorised Mr. Robinson to sound L^d^ George Germaine whether He will consent that Lord Carlisle shall be first Lord of Trade.—Some of the before mentioned Facts are so extraordinary that I am almost ashamed to relate them to your Majesty but I tell them exactly as I hear them.

From your Majesty's Dutyfull Subject, C. JENKINSON.

Apr. 28^th^ 1779.

$\frac{m}{40}$ *past* 6.

No. 2620—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of informing his Majesty that the Declaration in the Dissenters Bill was opposed today but maintain'd by a majority of 95 against 59.

The House went afterwards through S^r^ Wm. Howe's papers, & adjourn'd the further consideration of that business till tomorrow.

April 28 [1779].

$\frac{m}{45}$ *p^t^* 7 P.M.

No. 2621—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of informing his Majesty that he objected today in the Committee to entring into an examination of the military conduct of S^r^ Wm. Howe, & to call in Lord Cornwallis for that purpose. A Long debate & two questions ensued. The First was negatived by 180 against 155 & the second by 181 against 158. The Committee was adjourned to Thursday next, but it is probable that the business will not be further agitated.

DOWNING STREET,
April 30 [1779].
1/4 *pt.* 1. A.M.

Enclosure.

House of Commons

29th April 1779

Speakers in the Committee of the whole House on Sir Wm. Howe's papers.

Sir Wm. Howe moved that Lord Cornwallis sh[d] be called in.

Lord Nugent moved that the Chairman sh[d] leave the Chair—

Lord North called upon S[r] Wm. Howe to state to what point L[d] Cornwallis sh[d] be examined—on which after explanation the Debate arose,

ffor Calling in Lord Cornwallis.

Mr. Burgoyne very long mixing all his business with Howe—

Mr. Fox

Lord How in point of order to the Question.

Against it

Lord North many times

Lord George Germaine

Mr. Jenkinson

Lord North moved anAmendm[t] to the question that L[d] Cornwallis be called in to be examined generally and particularly to the Military conduct of S[r] Wm. Howe and the general Conduct of the War—

Lord Nugent withdrew his Question.

Question then put as amended by Lord North.

Ag[t] it.

S[r] Wm. Howe

Mr. Fox

Sir Wm. Meredith

Mr. Barre

Lord Howe

For the Amendment.

Lord North many times.

Lord Advocate long & ably on the whole Business of both Howe & Burgoyne.

Lord Nugent

Ag^{t} it.	For the Amendment.
Mr. Burgoyne	Col^{l} Onslow.
Mr. Thos. Townshend	
Mr. Burke	
Gen^{l} Conway	
Sir Edw^{d} Deering	
Mr. Dempster	
Sir Edw^{d} Astley	

The Comm^{ee} divided Ayes 180.
Noes 155.

Main Questions then put.

For it.	Against it.
Mr. Fox	Lord North
Gen^{l} Conway	

The Comm^{ee} divided Ayes 158
Noes 181

Mr. Barre then moved that Lord Cornwallis be called in to be examined touching the subject matter of the papers.

For it.	Against it.
Mr. Barre	Lord North several times to answer all the four other Gentlemen who attacked him.
Mr. Fox	
Sir George Yonge.	
Mr. Burke.	

The question negatived without a Division.

The Comm^{ee} to sit again on this Day Sevennight.

No. 2622—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 246.

QUEENS HOUSE,
April 30*th* 1779.
$\frac{m}{54}$ p^{t} 8 A.M.

I am glad to find by Lord North's letter that the examining Witnesses on the Military conduct of Sir W^{m} Howe in North

America hath been negatived, and that it is probable this business will not be further agitated. My reasoning on this affair has proved false, for I imagined when once it had been brought before the House of Commons that Lord G. Germain would have thought his Character had required its being fully canvassed but to my great surprise on Wednesday I found him most anxious to put an end to it in any mode that could be the most expeditious.

No. 2623—*Lord North to the King.*

[? *May*, 1779.]

Lord North has the honour of inclosing for his Majesty some papers of intelligence. He will have the honour of paying his duty tomorrow morning at St. James's when he hopes to be able to explain correctly the intentions of the Attorney General as he expects a letter from him tomorrow & he wishes to have his sentiments in writing rather than undertake to repeat a verbal conversation. He begs leave to return his Majesty his most grateful acknowledgements for his gracious communications of his intentions respecting the third prince whom his Majesty destines to the Naval service, a destination which must give a general satisfaction.

Tuesday Even^g

No. 2624—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 247.

QUEENS HOUSE,
May 3rd, 1779.

Taking it for granted that Lord North would be yesterday at Bushey, I thought it best not to return his box with the French intelligence untill this Morning; should the attack on either of the Islands of Jersey or Guernsey be attempted with so small a force as 1,500 Men, I should hope the success should prove not so certain. I understand Lord Sandwich is collecting Ships to send to them which will probably prevent any reinforcement being sent if the first Attack should have failed.

No. 2625—*The King to Lord North.*

QUEENS HOUSE,
May 4th. 1779.
$\frac{m}{2}$ p^t 9. A.M.

LORD NORTH—I can easily conceive that there are particular occasions which enevitably must arise in a popular Assembly that must oblige any man of penetration not to continue opposing what he might in the beginning of a Debate judge best rejected. As I applaud the Commander that when he sees the Service requires it strikes out a path different from his Instructions feeling it is at the risk of his life, such a conduct has the brave Arbuthnot shewn by his bold but well judged steps of going with his Convoy to the relief of Jersey, which cannot fail of redounding to the advantage of his Country and to his own Reputation, had others conducted themselves with the same zeal the American contest had long ended to the credit of the Mother Country.

No. 2626—*Mr. Jenkinson to the King.*

At the same time that I send your Majesty these Establishments for your Royal Signature, I cannot help mentioning in what a very disgraceful light the Government appeared in the House of Commons yesterday. L^d George Germain was indiscreet beyond Description, & gave ground to the Opposition which it was very difficult to resist Mr. Rigby had the Appearance of being Hostile & what He meant I cannot conceive; I will tell your Majesty more, when I pay my Duty to you tomorrow. I would at present only humbly advise that when your Majesty sees Lord North tomorrow you should urge Him to have a Meeting with L^d G. Germaine, the Attorney & the Lord Advocate & Mr. Rigby (if He is disposed to forgive Him) & get them to agree on some Mode of conducting this Enquiry so that your Majesty's Government may not be disgraced by it. As L^d George the Attorney & Mr. Rigby have occasion^d this Enquiry they ought to suggest the manner & to have the trouble of

conducting it & if some Plan is not form^{d}, I very much fear from what I heard last night that We shall lose our Majorities.

From Your Majesty's Dutyfull Subject C. JENKINSON.

PARL^{T} STREET,
May 4th 1779.

No. 2627—*Mr. Jenkinson to the King.*

In Obedience to your Majesty's commands I told Lord North all that had passed between your Majesty & Ld. Rockingham; He was very impatient to hear it & listened to it with great attention.

I hear that Lord Rockingham has since given Notice to the House of Lords of a Motion He intends to make respecting Ireland.

Ld. North is to see Lord George Germaine tonight concerning the proceedings in the House of Commons tomorrow.

I trouble your Majesty with a letter I have received from Lord Dunkellin eldest Son to the Earl of Clanricard. As there is a great deal of good sense & Zeal for your Majesty's Service in the letter, I wish your Majesty would in answer to it allow me to say that you had seen it with satisfaction & had commanded me to consult Lord Sandwich and Lord Amherst on what is proposed in it.

From your Majesty's Dutyfull Subject, C. JENKINSON.

PARL^{T} STREET,
May 5th 1779.
$\frac{m}{5}$ *past* 8.

No. 2628—*Lord Barrington to the King.*

CAVENDISH SQUARE,
6th May 1779.

SIR—When Lord Amherst and Mr. Jenkinson informed me of your Majestys intended goodness to my nephew at my humble request, I desired them to lay me at your Majesty's feet, in the manner that could best testify my duty, gratitude and devotion. I determin'd—however to make these professions directly to your

Majesty, when I might humbly thank you for the completion of your gracious intentions. Perhaps I should venture to bring my acknowledgments into the closet, if I were sufficiently recover'd from the gout to come to St. James's.

When your Majesty permitted my retreat accompany'd by distinguished marks of your approbation, I had only to wish that I might remain in your Majesty's remembrance; as one who during your reign had not deviated from his duty, either as a subject or servant. The late Grace confer'd on me in the person of my nephew is an evident proof of that invaluable Recollection.

I shall ever remain with perfect gratitude, duty and respect. Sir Your Majesty's most obliged & most devoted Subject & Servant BARRINGTON.

No. 2629—*Prince of Hesse to the King.*

SIRE—La situation triste et l'Etat malheureux ou je trouve actuellement mon Régiment, et mon Artillerie tombée entre les mains des Rebelles a Saratoga, m'oblige et me determine a mettre aux pieds de Votre Majesté une proposition très humble a cet égard; Me rapportant aux témoignages rendus de la part des Generaux de Votre Majesté a la conduite et a l'ordre qui regnent dans ce Régiment, ainsi qu'au zele que je lui ai imprimé moiméme pour Son Service, j'ose hazarder une demande que l'Equité reconnue du meilleur des Rois ne refusera pas a un Prince qui aprés avoir offert le peu de Trouppes dont il pouvoit disposer doit parler pour Ses Sujets et leur rendre leur destinée aussi peu dure que possible. Daignés Sire jetter un coup d'oeil sur l'Etat de mon Regiment presentement entre les mains des Americains, la dernière Liste que je viens de recevoir met le nombre des Soldats au dessous de 300 hommes avant leur depart des Environs de Boston pour la Virginie. En Canada, Le Detachement resté en arriere joint aux recrues que j'y envoiai l'année passée passe le nombre de 350. En echangeant dont les premiers 300 qui diminueront encore de beaucoup jusqu'au moment que les ordres arriveront pour cet effet. Tout mon Regiment pourroit étre formé en Canada, et remis sur le méme pied ou il étoit avant la malheureuse Capitulation à Saratoga

Que Votre Majesté fasse quelque attention, a mes trés humbles sollicitations. Qu'Elle soulage d'un seul mot le sort de tant de braves Gens qui ne respirent que de la servir, et qui dans l'État ou ils sont presentement attendrissent tous ceux qui sont au fait du malheur qu'ils souffrent sans leur faute.

Jamais je n'oublierai cette Graçe que Vous m'accordérez par la Sire, je tacherai de la meriter par le Respect et la soumission sans bornes avec les quels je fais gloire d'etre

Sire, De Votre Majesté Le trés humble trés obeissant et plus soumis serviteur & cousin. GUILLAUME P. H. D. HESSE.

HANAU,
ce 9e May.
1779.

No. 2630—*Lord North to the King.*

[10 *May*, 1779.]

Lord North has the honour of informing his Majesty, that The Bill for sanctioning the printing of Almanacks to the two Universities and the Stationers company is thrown out by a great Majority.

Ayes. 40
Noes. 60

Lord North thinks himself obliged to add that the business of General Howe's examination seems to him to take a very disagreable turn in the House. Gen: Grey's evidence and declarations concerning the conduct of Sr Wm Howe and the impracticability of the War have made such an impression that it will be very difficult to get the better of it. It is probable that a compliment will be voted to Sr Wm Howe, & it is possible that some resolutions may be prepared against the continuance of the War, which though not carried will be supported by so many votes as to leave it almost impossible to the present Ministry to remain in office. Indeed, it will not be very easy for them to remain after a compliment given to Sr Wm Howe which will be understood by the bulk of mankind not unreasonably as a censure upon the administration.

Monday Evening
½ *pt* 7 P.M.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2631—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 247.

QUEENS HOUSE,
May 10*th* 1779
$\frac{m}{15}$ p^t 8 P.M.

If attention has been shewn to get an attendance this day, there is only reason to be sorry that the Universities have lost a revenue they have so long enjoyed; but should that not be the case they will feel hurt that they have not been so zealously assisted as they might with reason expect.

I am sorry to find by Lord North's letter that the examination in the House of Commons on Sir W. Howe is taking a turn contrary to his wishes; I owne I never thought the declaration through Lord Clarendon ought to have been so much relied on, and when once the papers were permitted to come before Parliament and that to crown all Ld. G. Germain chose to bring a specific disapprobation of the landing at the head of Elk, it was impossible to resist the examining Witnesses.

Draft and fair copy in the King's handwriting.

No. 2632—*Lord North to the King.*

[? 10 *May*, 1779.]

Lord North has the honour of inclosing a letter he has just received from Mr. Forth rather more regularly written and more instructive than his letters have lately been.

Lord North wrote to his Majesty in some haste upon the surprize he conceived on the receipt of Lord Chancellor's letter. Upon recollection of the matter of it he thinks there is something in the objections he makes to Ld. G. Germain's letter to Sr. Wm.

Howe. It certainly is so cold that total inactivity must be the consequence while Sr. Wm. remains at the head of the Army.

Downing Street,
Monday even^g^.

No. 2633—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

Admiralty
May 10th 1779.

Lord Sandwich has the honour to enclose to your Majesty a letter just received from Loyds Coffee house.

Lord Sandwich & Admiral Digby wish to know whither they understand your Majesty right, when they suppose that you mean that Mr. Waddington now chaplain of the Ramillies should be appointed Chaplain of the Prince George.

Admiral Digby chuses to continue in the Prince George rather than move into a first rate.

No. 2634—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 249.

Queens House,
May 11th 1779.
$\frac{m}{15}$ p^t 7 A.M.

Lord North—I have very carefully perused the two letters You have received from Mr. Francis the Company is ruined and Parliament turned into ridicule unless Mr. Hastings is instantly removed from his situation I hope you will therefore direct Mr. Robinson without the loss of a minute to see the Chairman and Deputy Chairman and have the legal steps taken for removing Hastings and Barwell, and that two men of integrity and firmness must be sent to fill up the Commission ; Warley once wished that employment, I do not mention this from any other view but that a Man of his Spirit is the best calculated for that Scene, it will not be a quiet one. if Coote is not gone would it not be proper to have his opinion concerning those joined to him on this occasion ; do not let these two seats be filled by men whom it may suit, but find men that suit the Situation.

No. 2635—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 250.

QUEEN'S HOUSE,
May 13*th* 1779.
$\frac{m}{27}$ p^t 8 A.M.

The Account Lord North gave unto me yesterday of the language held the night before by the Attorney General to Mr. Robinson, has much filled my mind, and the result has been that though I believe his temper is much on the fret yet, I take it to have been some how or other more irritated at that hour, and that he has threatened more than he will perform ; for as He is allowed to be a sensible man he cannot fail when he reflects to find that he could not take so unpopular step for himself as to be the cause of the retreat of the Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, and that a Peerage accompanying his advancement would give very reasonable offence to many ; the two Chiefs are not likely to stand long in his way if he came thus naturally into one of those Stations a Peerage might not follow with the bad grace it would now, for his standing would naturally procure him the office while the Peerage would be to a certain degree the reward of Services ; but if the Chief Justice is to be pensioned to make room for him and a Peerage added it would really be too much. I certainly could not agree to such a proposition I must not alone consider the difficulty of the hour, but must not to get rid of that erect an example which must occasion enumerable evils in future.

If Lord North's arrangement for vacating the Chancellorships of the Dutchy will please the Attorney I shall willingly consent to it, but I cannot give way to the plan he has proposed for himself, and I cannot think him in the House of Lords at this hour of any advantage to me, and that he may as well retire from my Service nay better for that will not draw on the train of disatisfaction from others that would ensue his being over loaded with favours.

No. 2636—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of informing his Majesty that Mr. Fox moved today in the House of Commons for the proceedings

of the Court Martial upon Sr. H. Palliser to be laid before the House, which motion was after debate rejected by a great majority.

Ayes. 78
Noes. 157

Mr. Fox afterwards moved that Sr. Robert Harland's letter to the Admiralty should be laid before the House which occasion'd a long debate, but was rejected without a division.

Thursday Even^g
May 13 [1779]. 11 *o'clock* P.M.

Endorsed by the King.

Enclosure.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

13th May 1779.

Speakers on Mr. Fox's Motion for the Sentence of the Court Martial on Sir Hugh Palliser.

For	Ag^t
Mr. Fox	Mr. G. Johnstone
Mr. Burke	Lord North
Adm^l Keppell	Lord Nugent
Mr. Temple Lutterell	Coll. Onslow
Mr. Thos Townshend	Mr. Attorney General
Sir Wm. Meredith	Mr. Penton
Mr. Barre	Lord Mulgrave
	Lord George Germain.

The House divided—Ayes. 78
Noes. 157

Mr. Fox then moved for Sir Rob^t Harland's Letter to be laid before the House.

For it.	Ag^t it
Mr. Fox	Mr. G. Johnstone
Mr. Chas Turner	Lord North
Admiral Keppell	
Lord John Cavendish	
Sir George Yonge	
Mr. Dunstone	The Question put & Negatived
Mr. Burke.	with^t a Division.

No. 2637—*Mr. Jenkinson to the King.*

Mr. Robinson has just been with me, & I am persuaded that if your Majesty writes to Lord North in a firm tone stating the Ideas with respect to Mr. Wedderburn which your Majesty mention[d] to me yesterday, Lord North will himself be firm & Mr. Wedderburn will acquiesce. The Ideas, as I remember them, are as follows, that if a great Office in the Law opens, Mr. Wedderburn shall have it provided he continues to serve your Majesty *till then*; that *in such case* He shall have a Peerage, that if He is now tired of being at the Bar, He may leave it in every other respect than what relates to your Majesty's own Business & to enable Him to do so, He may be Chancellor of the Dutchy with a Competent Salary; & to all these Conditions Lord North should accede, *not at once*, but only by Degrees. I am led to this opinion from what Mr. Robinson has just now told me viz; that the Lord Advocate, whom Lord North & Mr. Robinson have inform'd of what has passed with respect to Mr. Wedderburn, has just now told Mr. Robinson that the Attorney ought to be satisfied with the promise of the first Law Office that becomes vacant, & a Peerage & that He ought not to think of quitting His Profession *at all*; & He is gone to Mitcham and means to talk to the Attorney & earnestly to advise Him to this & Mr. Eden has this morning written to Lord North & among other arrangements He states that Mr. Wedderburn should be Chancellor of the Dutchy *for Life*; to which your Majesty, I hope, will be cautious of consenting, as it would make Him independent. Mr. Robinson thinks that Lord North's opinion is in reality the same as your Majestys, & that His weak Mind only wants *Support* which your Majesty may give it. Mr. Eden has received a Letter from S[r] Joseph York, in which he positively declines being Secretary of State. This Circumstance proves what has been going forwards, & explains what Lord North said to your Majesty on this Subject Mr. Wedderburn pretends to be well with the Chancellor and says that they think alike; I cannot credit this; but the Truth of it, your Majesty may be able perhaps to discover.

From your Majesty's Dutyfull Subject, C. Jenkinson.

May 15th 1779.
$\frac{3}{4}$ *past* 9. *o'Clock.*

No. 2638—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 251.

QUEENS HOUSE,
May 17*th* 1779.

The bringing the transaction with Mr. Wedderburn to a final conclusion seems so material to the ease of Lord North, that I cannot help once more writing on the subject; I therefore permit his assuring Mr. Wedderburn in my name that he shall have any Great Office in the Law that shall become open, provided he continues to serve till then, and that in such case he shall have a Peerage; that if he is now tired of being at the Bar, he may leave it in every other respect than what relates to the business of the Crown, and to enable him to do so, He may be Chancellor of the Dutchy with a competent Salary. I trust Lord North will to all these conditions accede not at once, but by degrees; but that should the Attorney press for any provision for life, that it will be declined at once.

Draft and fair copy in the King's handwriting.

No. 2639—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 251.

QUEENS HOUSE,
May 17*th* 1779.

Having last Night acquainted my third Son that I intend to send him under the direction of Rear Admiral Digby to Sea, I take this method of letting Ld. North know it, as from the regard I have always had for him I do not chuse he should hear anything that relates to my family but from myself; all the Sea Officers I have ever consulted as to the proper age of Sending Young people to Sea have concurred in the opinion that fourteen is as late as so hardy a profession can be embraced with the smallest chance of success, he wants but three months of that age. The Boy has behaved with that spirit on the occasion that makes me flatter myself he will turn out well, and I should be ashamed to place my Sons in any line where they did not most correctly fulfill all the duties of the Station.

No. 2640—*The King to Lord North.*

QUEENS HOUSE
May 19th 1779.
$\frac{m}{5}$ p^t 8 A.M.

LORD NORTH—As the Installation of the Knights of the Bath would have reduced my Levee to a Tête à tête between me and the Lord in Waiting, I shall not go to St. James's today but shall be ready to receive you here.

No. 2641—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

Lord Sandwich takes the liberty to submit to your Majesty whither it might not have a good effect if your Majesty was to allow Sir James Wallace the honour of an audience after the Levee on Friday; he has nothing to ask for himself, & L^d Sandwich thinks that he would consider the honour of being admitted to your Majesty's presence, as an ample reward for his very distinguished services; Sir James Wallace however has not the least idea that such an honour can be conferred upon him.

BLACKHEATH
May 19th 1779.

No. 2642—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

ADMIRALTY,
May 27th 1779.

Lord Sandwich has the honour to send to your Majesty the Dispatches from Admiral Byron, which are just brought to this office by Mr. Tothill late Purser of the Weazle Sloop who is come a passenger in a Treasury Victualler. He left S^{ta} Lucia on April 10th and then there had been no action between the two fleets.

No. 2643—*Mr. Jenkinson to the King.*

Before I left Town yesterday Evening I saw Lord Gower & had a very confidential Conversation with Him; & I find by

what he told me that Opposition are again trying to negociate with a part of your Majesty's Government; He told me that a Person had been with Him on the part of the Duke of Grafton & Lord Rockingham, but He did not say who it was proposing that Lord North & Lord Rockingham should both give way, & that He, Lord Gower, should be first Lord of the Treasury & at the Head of your Majesty's Government,—that they could not think of serving with Lord North in the Station He at present holds, as He was so very indolent and inattentive to Business, but they had no Objection to any Honorable Provision that should be made for Him; & that they had told Lord Rockingham that His Desire of being in a particular Situation must no longer stand in the Way of their Fortunes, that They wish^{d} for Places only for a part of their Friends, that as they thought the Government of Ireland very weak, they wish^{d} the Duke of Portland might go there; that they wish^{d} for two Blew Ribbons, one for the Duke of Devonshire, but they did not name the person for whom they desired the other—that Mr. Chas. Fox must have a Place, but He would be content with one of Profit only without any Share of Business;—that they wish^{d} that Lord Gower & the Duke of Grafton should meet & open their minds freely; Lord Gower told me He believed they suspected that Lord Shelburne was negociating through some other Quarter; His Lordship told me all this in great Confidence & desired me not to mention it to any Body. He seem^{d} doubtfull whether He should tell it to your Majesty, but said he would first consult the Chancellour I thought it right however, that your Majesty should be apprised of it, humbly hoping that you will not appear to know it to any one; Indeed I am persuaded that if Lord Gower does not mention this to your Majesty the Opposition will try to find their Way through some other Quarter. The Fears of some are alarmed from what they conceive to be the State of Things, & I know the personal Distress of others is greater than can well be imagined. They have tried what violence would do through the whole of the Session; & having failed of success they must now try to attain their end in some other Method. I have no doubt that between this & the End of the Session your Majesty will hear of Propositions from different Quarters. Lord Gower said he did not know whether He should ever be persuaded to accept the Situation proposed for Him, & yet He did not seem to revolt at it so much

as I expected ; He added that He thought His Son in Law Lord Carlisle has got into a Connection with Governour Johnson & Mr. Eden, which He lamented.

I hope your Majesty will not think Me presumptuous in sending you this Intelligence ; I thought it might be of Use to your Majesty & that it was proper thus to prepare You, which was my only reason for doing it.

From your Majesty's Dutyfull Subject, C. Jenkinson.

Addiscombe Place.
May 29th 1779.

No. 2644—*Sir Samuel Hood to the King.*

Portsmouth Dock Yard.
May 29th 1779.

Sir—I want words to express how much I feel myself honor'd by your Majesty's condescending goodness in writing me the letter of the 27th.

Prince Williams Baggage shall be received, taken care of, and the Bedding kept aired, till rear-Admiral Digby wishes to have it on board.

I hope you will forgive my presumption Sir, in entreating your Majesty will be pleased to permit me the honor of receiving your amiable Son in the Dock yard, on his arrival at Portsmouth, and of conducting His royal Highness to the Prince George whenever his Admiral desires him to embark.

The appointment of a new Builder here, is a proof how much the Earl of Sandwich attends to your Majesty's Interest, as from what I have already seen of Mr. White he is very active and full of zeal & attention, and perfect master of his Business. I am exceedingly flatter'd and happy, by your Majesty's most gracious approbation of my conduct and I most humbly entreat you will be assured Sir, that I embrace every opportunity of exerting my poor abilities for the honor and advantage of your Majesty's service.

I cannot help flattering myself that your Majesty will soon receive glorious news from the West Indies, and I look forward with eager and pleasing expectation that your Majesty's Fleet now at sea, under the command of Vice Admiral Darby will

return victorious to Spithead as we believe here, The French have a Squadron at Sea near the English Channel.

That the Arms of your Majesty may be crowned with success in every quarter of the Globe, are the unceasing prayers of Your Majesty's Most dutyfull, and ever grateful Servant

Sam Hood.

No. 2645—*The King to Lord North.*

Kew, *June* 1*st* 1779
$\frac{m}{46}$ *pt.* 10 A.M.

Lord North's Box is just received, I have signed the Message to the House of Commons for a Vote of Credit; I flatter myself now the Committees of Supply and Ways and Means are closed, the business of the Session may be soon concluded; I should immagine the Gentlemen of the House of Commons, to get into the Country sooner, would not object to Sitting of a Saturday.

No. 2646.

List of the Fleet Commanded by Monsr. Dorvillier which sailed from Brest the 3rd of June 1779

La Bretagne	110	Mr. Le Cote. Dorvillier
La Ville de Paris	100	Le Cote. de Guichen
La Couronne	80	De Freville
L'Auguste	80	Victe. de Rochechouart
Le St. Esprit	80	Chevalr. de Fernay
Le Neptune	74	Hector
Le Glorieux	74	De Bausset
Le Conquerant	74	De Monteil
L'Actif	74	De Bavaudin
Le Scipion	74	De Cherissy
Le Palmier	74	De Rials
L'Intrepide	74	De Bausseir
Le Zodiaque	74	La Porte Vezine
Le Citoyen	74	Le Mar. de Pieul

L'Hercule	74	Le Cont. Damblimont
Le Bien Aimé	74	Daubenton
Le Pluton	74	D'Estouches
Le Destin	74	D'Espineuse
L'Eveille	64	De Balleroy
Le St. Michel	64	De la Biochais
L'Alexandre	64	De Tremignon L'Aimé
Le Solitaire	64	Monteclair
Le Protheé	64	De Cacqueray
L'Actionnaire	64	De Larchantel
L'Indien	64	La Grandiere
Le Bizzarre	64	St. Riveul
Le Triton	64	De la Clocheterie
Le Caton	64	De Seillane
	1 of 110	
	1 of 100	
	3 of 80	
	13 of 74	
	10 of 64	
La Bourgogne	74	Mr. Marin
La Victeire	74	Albert D'Hypolite

Also 10 frigates 4 Corvettes
2 Lougurs 6 fire ships
2 Bomb Vessells

in all 54 Sail.

No. 2647—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of informing his Majesty, that Sr. W. Meredith's motion in the House to-day was rejected after a long debate but without a division.

Ld. North has the honour to inclose a letter from Mr. Wentworth, & another from Mr. Neckar's Brother's Ship, which seem to confirm one another.

June 5, 1779.
11 *o'clock* P.M.

No. 2648—*Mr. Robinson to the King.*

Mr. Robinson hopes he shall not err in presuming to acquaint your Majesty, that Lord North had a Conversation with the Attorney General yesterday, which seems not to have Ended pleasantly, as the Attorney General afterwards declared to the Lord Advocate, that it was impossible for him to go near Lord North again ; altho' Mr. Robinson understands from Lord North, that he consented, to write to Sir Joseph Yorke to ask him to accept the Secretary of State, and to see Lord Hardwicke upon it, and in that Case, said, he must make his Excuses to Lord Hillsborough. The Lord Advocate was to have a fuller Conversation with the Attorney General, and promised to state the purport of it to Mr. Robinson, but the Lord Advocate said that the Attorney Generals Mind seemed yesterday to be so irritated, that he appeared desperately determined to overturn Your Majesty's Administration or to carry his Points, and that since he found he cou'd not be the Chief Justice of the Common Pleas with a peerage, he most certainly was pressed forward by the Intrigues, and from the Views, of others, to look for the Office of Secretary of State, altho' he wou'd not speak out explicitly to Lord North ; and this seems to accord with his being so very much out of Temper, even after Lord North appeared so far to waive Lord Hillsborough as to write to Sir Joseph Yorke to offer him that Office.

Lord North's Mind seems so agitated by the whole of this transaction, that altho' he formerly thought the Attorney Generals Assistance of so much consequence as that he cou'd not go on without him, yet he now says, that the Attorney General is so very troublesome, he should not be sorry, if upon the Chief Justice's death, who has been ill, the Attorney General was to succeed to his Wishes. Mr. Robinson is extremely sorry that he happens not to have a Box here to send to your Majesty.

Syon Hill,
6th June 1779.
9° A.M.

No. 2649—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 252.

KEW, *June* 11*th* 1779
$\frac{m}{25}$ *pt.* 10 A.M.

Though I shall return this day unto Lord North the Box containing the voluminous papers he delivered Yesterday unto me, yet I do not chuse to delay untill noon returning the paper that contains the supposed purport of the Address to be moved this day by Sir W. Meredith, as Lord North may wish to examine it this forenoon, and as the Note he sent unto me the last Afternoon, mentions his not having read the paper delivered by Mr. Eden unto him on that and other matters of an important nature.

The object of Sir W. Meredith, pretends to be the desire of Peace with America, that of Mr. Eden is to be employed as a private Negociator with Franklin to effect Peace with America, it is therefore easy to blend my thoughts on both ideas, indeed I rather wish to convey my sentiments to Lord North on so very serious a subject on Paper, as it will enable him at any time to recurr to this when he wants to know my ideas on the Subject.

I should think it the greatest instance among the many I have met with of ingratitude and injustice, if it could be supposed, that any Man in my Dominions more ardently desired the restoration of Peace and solid happiness in every part of this Empire than I do, there is no personal Sacrifice I could not readily yield for so desirable an object, but at the same time no inclination to get out of the present difficulties which certainly keep my mind very far from a state of ease, can incline me to enter into what I look upon as the distruction of the Empire. I have heard Lord North frequently drop that the advantages to be gained by this contest could never repay the expence, I owne that let any War be ever so successful if persons will set down and weigh the Expences they will find as in the last that it has impoverished the State, enriched individuals, and perhaps raised the Name only of the Conquerors, but this is only weighing such events in the Scale of a Tradesman behind his Counter; it is necessary for those in the Station it has pleased Divine Providence to place me to weigh whether expences though very great

are not some times necessary to prevent what might be more ruinous to a Country than the loss of money. The present Contest with America I cannot help seeing as the most serious in which any Country was ever engaged it contains such a train of consequences that they must be examined to feel its real weight; whether the laying a Tax was deserving all the Evils that have arisen from it, I should suppose no man could alledge that without being thought more fit for Bedlam than a Seat in the Senate; but step by step the demands of America have risen—independence is their object, that certainly is one which every man not willing to sacrifice every object to a *momentary and* inglorious Peace must concurr with me in thinking that this Country can never submit to; should America succeed in that, the West Indies must follow them, not independence, but must for its own interest be dependent on North America; Ireland would soon follow the same plan and be a separate State, then this Island would be reduced to itself, and soon would be a poor Island indeed, for reduced in Her Trade Merchants would retire with their Wealth to Climates more to their Advantage, and Shoals of Manufacturers would leave this Country for the New Empire; these self evident consequences, are not worse than what can arise should the Almighty permit every event to turn out to our disadvantage; consequently this Country has but one Sensible, one great line to follow, the being ever ready to make Peace when to be obtained without submitting to terms that in their consequence must anihilate this Empire, and with firmness to make every effort to deserve Success.

Two copies, in the King's handwriting.

No. 2650.

House of Commons.

11th June, 1779.

Speakers on Sir Wm. Meredith's Motion for an Address to the Throne to direct Measures for restoring Peace with America.

For	Against
Sir Wm. Meredith moved	Lord North
Mr. Hartley seconded	Mr. George Johnstone

For	Against
Mr. Fox	Mr. Eden
Mr. Powis in part for, agt. Independency but for withdrawing the Troops	Lord George Germain
	Lord Advocate
	Mr. Attorney General
Mr. Burke	Mr. Burrell
Mr. Thos. Townshend	
Mr. Dunning	
Mr. Dempster	

Question put and carried in the Negative without a Division.

No. 2651.

MINUTES OF ARRANGEMENTS FOR CONSIDERATION

[In the King's handwriting.]

Proposed to be done immediately.

[? 11 *June*, 1779.]

Lord Hillsborough to be Secretary of State vice late E. of Suffolk.
Ld. Lyttleton to be removed. His place offered to Ld. Beauchamp.
Sir Richd. Sutton to succeed Ld. Beauchamp.

Ld. Chas. Spencer Desires to resign, ought to be promised an Employment of £1,500 a year, this ought to be wrote to the D. of Marlborough; Lord Chas. will probably decline Mr. Mackay's place.

Mr. Buller is desirous of quitting the Admiralty, may change with Sir Robt. Worsley, and Bamb^{r} Gascoyne succeed Ld. Chas. Spencer.

Soame Jenyns desirous of retiring, as also Mr. Jollyffe } in which cases Andrew Stuart / Anne Paulett / Mr. Gybbon

to succeed at the Board of Trade.

Sir W. Cunningham to succeed Sir Alex. Gilmour in the Green Cloth.

Mr. John Manners to be removed Govr. Pownall succeed.
Mr. Mackay retire, if Ld. Chas. Spencer declines, Mr. Buller then Mr. Combe Clark of the Green Cloth.
Lord Pembroke to be removed, Ld. Onslow succeed.
Comptroller Mr. Cornwall if declines Ld. Westcote, or Ld. Palmerstone, or Ld. Lisburne, or Mr. Penton; if it vacates the Admiralty Mr. Greville to succeed; then Govr. Pownall to the Board of Trade, and Mr. Buller Jnr. Housekeeper, Whitehall.
Ld. Advocate to have the whole of the Signet Office in Scotland during pleasure; Mr. A. Stuart to have a promise of Baron Maule's office of Clerk to the Register of Seisins in addition to the Board of Trade.
Attorney General, an Assurance if he remains in Office of the first Great Law Office that shall fall with a Peerage.
Mr. Hare
Mr. Crawford } Foreign Ministers
If Ld. G. Germain resigns
Mr. Ellis Secretary of State.
Ld. Carlisle, First Lord of Trade.
Mr. Fox, Treasurer of the Navy.
Master of the Household if Sir Frans. Drake will resign one of the Board of Green Cloth, and a provision may be made for Mr. Fitzpatrick.
Lieut. Gen. of Marines to remain vacant.
When Ld. Carlisle is appointed first Lord of Trade Mr. Greville to be Treasurer of the Household, Sir Ralph Payne Comptroller, and Sir W. Gordon Clerk of the Board of Green Cloth.

No. 2652—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 255.

KEW, *June* 12*th* 1779
$\frac{m}{10}$ *pt.* 7 A.M.

Lord North's Account of the proposal of Sir W. Meredith having been rejected without a Division is undoubtedly the best method of quashing it; but, I cannot help deeming the bringing

such a matter at this time forward as very mischievous. America from distress begins to feel, and Gentlemen who pretend to be Englishmen are bringing forward questions they know the Majority will reject, only to raise the drooping Spirit of America.

Vice Admiral Darby is returned and will in three or four days be in a Situation to Sail with Sir Charles Hardy, I am therefore glad to hear the French fleet has quitted Brest, as we shall be in right time to prevent their returning without their hazarding an Action, which I am certain must now end greatly to our Advantage.

No. 2653—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

ADMIRALTY, *June* 12*th* 1779.

Lord Sandwich has the honour to inform your Majesty, that in consequence of the enclosed intelligence, which (combined with that from General Conway) seems to leave very little doubt of the Brest fleet being actually at sea, he last night sent a Messenger to Sir Charles Hardy pressing him in the strongest terms, both in an official & private letter to get to sea without a moments loss of time, & without waiting for anything but what was absolutely necessary.

He allso sent another Messenger to the Nore (with a private letter to the Captain) to hasten the Canada to Spithead.

Lord Sandwich gave orders by the Messenger to stop all the outward bound convoys till Sir Charles Hardy is sailed.

Your Majesty will find herewith a private letter from Ld. Mulgrave containing a very pleasing account of the temper & disposition of the fleet.

No. 2654—*Mr. Jenkinson to the King.*

I think it right to apprize your Majesty that Lord North held yesterday in the House of Commons much firmer language with respect to America than I have known Him, & Lord G. Germaine spoke with more Spirit & more like a Minister than usual, so that the Cause of Government wore a better Face than it has done for some time & it is clear that what your Majesty thought proper

to write & say, had its Effect. I presume to suppose that your Majesty would like to be inform'd of This.

From your Majesty's Dutyfull Subject C. JENKINSON.

PARL^{T} STREET,
June 12*th* [1779]
11 *o'Clock.*

No. 2655—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

ADMIRALTY, *June* 15*th* 1779.

Lord Sandwich has the honour to forward to your Majesty the letter he has just recieved from Sir Samuel Hood, with its enclosure.

He allso sends Sir Charles Hardy's Line of battle, in which your Majesty will observe the Thunderer, America, and Canada are included tho' they have not yet joined; the two former are still at sea tho' expected back every hour, and the Canada sailed from the Nore on Sunday morning at six o'clock.

Sir Thomas Pye writes word that all Sir Charles Hardys Squadron is compleatly manned; which is farther confirmed by Lord Mulgraves letter to Ld. Sandwich, which allso gives reason to imagine that the Fleet will sail this day or tomorrow, as the wind is now fair.

The Cutters that were sent after the outward bound convoys have overtaken them, and they are on their return; to remain till Sir Charles Hardy is got down channel.

Lord Sandwich has sent, for your Majesty's perusal, the minutes & sentence of a court martial upon a very great offender; upon which he tomorrow will beg to recieve your Majesty's commands.

No. 2656—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of sending to his Majesty a plan of arrangements, some to take place before the Prorogation, & others upon the resignation of Ld. George Germain, if the information we have received of his intentions proves true. But Lord North thinks it his duty as a faithful servant to his Majesty, & as a good citizen to add that no arrangement can be so effectual

to the Public service, as one that shall alter the person at the head of the Treasury ; Lord North feels his own faculties of mind & body daily diminishing, &, he is sorry to say, that he thinks the difficulties of this country increasing : He can [not] help, therefore, repeating to his Majesty that a change in his department is necessary for his Majesty's service. Lord Gower, as first Lord of the Treasury, & Mr. Jenkinson, as Chancellor of the Exchequer would make a strong Board, & these promotions would open the means of a very extensive & useful arrangement. Lord North begs leave to add, that in that case His Majesty would have what he can hardly be said to have at present, a Member of Parliament out of place who would be ready on every proper occasion to support the measures of Government to the utmost of his abilities.

Tuesday, June 15 [1779].

No. 2657—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 255.

KEW, *June* 15*th* 1779,
$\frac{m}{15}$ *pt.* 5 P.M.

It is ever my wish to forward any proposal that comes from Lord North as far as I can, as such I accept of his proposal of Arrangements, except in the instances of Lord Onslow to Succeed Lord Pembroke, and a Peerage for Ld. Geo. Germain.

My reason for declining the first is, that when the Earls of Winchelsea and Aylesford came into the Bedchamber I told Lord North I was under engagements to Lord Boston, but would wave them till the next vacancy, I apprized Lord Boston of this, and consequently cannot on a vacancy think of any one but him. It would be an endless repitition to state my objection to decorating Lord Geo. Germain with a Peerage ; He has not be[en] of use in his department, and nothing but the most meritorious Services could have wiped off his former misfortunes.

As to Lord North's wish of retiring it wou'd be highly unbecoming at this hour, besides had I inclined to it, I could never have thought his making the present considerable arrangement a proper prelude to his resigning.

Lord North will apprize the Cabinet that on Thursday Lord Hillsborough will receive the Seals of Secretary of State.

Draft and fair copy in the King's handwriting.

No. 2658—*Lord North to the King.*

[15 *June*, 1779.]

Lord North has the honour of informing his Majesty, that Mr. Townshend's motion for an address to suspend the prorogation of Parliament till the end of the American enquiry was rejected this evening by a great majority.

Ayes 70
Noes 142

By accounts from all quarters Spain will immediately declare war, and there is reason to expect that Mr. d'Almodovar will give notice of it tomorrow to Lord Weymouth. It is reputed, & Ld. North fears with very good authority, that the French Fleet is gone to Cadiz to join the Spanish Fleet.

15th June 1779.

Speakers on Mr. Thos. Townshend's Motion to Address His Majesty not to prorogue the Parliament.

For	Against
Mr. Thos. Townshend moved	Lord Beauchamp moved the order of the Day
Sir Robt. Clayton seconded	Mr. Johnstone
Mr. Conolly	Lord Advocate
Genl. Burgoyne	Sir Edw. Deering
Lord John Cavendish	Mr. Rigby
Mr. Burke	Mr. Jenkinson
Mr. Fox	Ld. Beauchamp withdrew his Motion for the order of the Day to give his Negative to the Motion.
Sir George Saville	
Lord Howe	

The Question was put Ayes 70
Noes 142

No. 2659—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 256.

The Division in the House of Commons the last Evening was an advantageous event at the Close of the Session. I should not be surprised if Mr. Almodovar should be ordered by His Court to quit this Country. The event might long have been expected; my conduct has not hurried it on, it is therefore our duty with firmness to meet it, an Higher power must decide with what effect.

KEW, *June 16th* 1779.

$\frac{m}{15}$ *pt.* 8 P.M.

No. 2660—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 257.

QUEENS HOUSE, *June 16th* 1779

$\frac{m}{13}$ *pt.* M.

Lord North's application to resign within two days of the Prorogation of Parliament, I can see in no other light, than as his shewing his continuation in a desire of retiring whenever my Affairs will permit it; for I can never Suppose that he, who so very handsomely stepped forth on the desertion of the Duke of Grafton, would lose all that merit, by following so undignified an example the times are certainly hazardous, but that ought to rouze the Spirit of Every Englishman to support me, who have no wish but for the prosperity of my People, and no view but to do my Duty, and to shew by firmness in difficulties, that I am not unworthy of the Station into which it has pleased Providence to place me.

Draft and fair copy in the King's handwriting.

No. 2661—*Lord North to the King.*

As Lord North has received the melancholy news of the approaching death of his son at Bushy, & expects Lady North

every minute in Town, He is afraid that he must desire his Majesty's permission to absent himself from St. James's this morning where he certainly ought to attend with the Hs. of Commons to present the address to his Majesty. He did not return home from the House last night, but he supposes Mr. Robinson sent a state of the debate & the divisions. Ld. J. Cavendish seconded the Motion for the address which pass'd nemine contradicente, & then made his other motion which [was] debated with many censures on the Ministry, but with general & warm expressions of zeal for the Public, & readiness to contribute by every means to the defence & support of the nation. The conduct of the opposition was as handsome as could be expected.

Friday, June 18 [1779].

Lord North finds that Mr. Robinson's paper was not sent last night, & has sent it in the Box together with a fair Draught of an answer to the Address of the Hs. of Commons, as Lord North may, for the reason before mention'd be prevented from attending St. James's, which, however, his present purpose is to do, if he possibly can.

Enclosure.

House of Commons.

17th June 1779

Speakers on the Business this Day in the House
on His Majestie's Message

Lord North moved the Address
Lord John Cavendish 2d.

The Address voted Nemine Contradicente

	Against this Motion
Lord John Cavendish moved for an Address to the Crown to collect all the Forces of this Country to be employed against the House of Bourbon.	Lord North Mr. Jenkinson moved to adjourn Mr. Ellis Lord Advocate Mr. Eden

Sir George Saville, seconded him.

For

Mr. Burke
Mr. Fox
Lord George Gordon
Mr. Thos. Townshend
Lord Bulkeley
Mr. Hartley
Mr. Baldwin
Sr. P. J. Clarke
Mr. Dempster

Against this Motion

Governor Johnstone
Sir H. Mackworth desired to know what Alliances we had to support us.
Sir Adam Ferguson
Coll. Onslow
Mr. Gilbert.

The House divided

For the Adjournment Ayes 156
Noes 80

No. 2662—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 257.

Queens House, *June 18th* 1779.
$\frac{m}{58}$ *pt.* 11 A.M.

Lord North—I sincerely condole You on the loss of Your Son, had I known of his illness I should not have omitted enquiring after him, as I shall ever interest myself in whatever can personally affect You.

Lord John Cavendish Seconding the Address was handsome, his party would have stood on very respectable ground had it thrown a veil over former dissentions and offered to assist at this critical juncture; but the motion to withdraw the Troops from America overturns every good the former step might have done in the public; America cannot now be deserted without the loss of the Islands; therefore we must stretch every nerve to defend ourselves, and must run some risks, if we are to play only a cautious game ruin will inevitably ensue.

I have signed the Warrants and by no means press Lord North to come to St. James's when his mind cannot be in a state to make his attendance of utility; I wish to know which day he thinks the Parliament may be Prorogued, the sooner the better or Opposition will be making motions to occasion

delay, and which in their nature can by no means tend to any thing but preventing the Servants of the Crown from being employed where they can be of more use to the Country than in talking in Parliament at this season.

No. 2663—*Lord North to the King.*

[19 *June*, 1779.]

Lord North has the honour of transmitting to his Majesty a Draught of the Speech adapted to the present circumstances of the Country, but he is afraid that the Parliament can not be prorogued tomorrow, as the opposition have it in their power to prevent it by opposing the Lord Advocate's writ. It will be intirely in your Majesty's power to prorogue the Parliament on Tuesday, if it is thought right, but as the Chancellor stated some doubts yesterday, Lord North wishes to see him before he absolutely determines.

Lord North finds it impossible to make any of the arrangements proposed immediately except what relates to the Advocate, Mr. Andrew Stuart, & Mr. Gybbon, the latter is the Atty. General's friend. The reasons for the former are obvious.

Saturday Eveng.

Lord North returns his most grateful & dutiful expressions to his Majesty for his very gracious expressions contain'd in the notes he has received from his Majesty. He will, if his Majesty commands it, serve in office till his Majesty can replace him without inconvenience, but he is bound in duty to acquaint his Majesty that he grows sensibly every day less equal to his situation. He is sorry to say that he feels his health & spirits decline.

No. 2664—*Lord Weymouth to the King.*

In obedience to Your Majesty's commands I communicated the contents of the note, with which Your Majesty honor'd me, to the Cabinet, in consequence of which an alteration has been made in the Instructions by leaving out the words *to return for reinforcement* it was thought that this alteration wou'd make the

draught agreable to Your Majesty's commands, & that Sir Charles Hardy wou'd be left to act entirely on his own Judgment without any biass.

St. James's,
June 19*th* 1779.
11 *o'clock* P.M.
to be sent to Your Majesty
very early to morrow morning.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2665—*Lord Amherst to the King.*

At a meeting of your Majesty's confidential Servants this day, it has been proposed to send the 2nd Battn. of Lord Macleods' Regiment, and the *515* Men intended for the reinforcement of Minorca, to Plymouth, for the better and immediate defence of that Place, in case of an Attack of the Enemy, and that the Transports should be ready to convey the Troops from Plymouth to Minorca, in the same manner as was proposed from Portsmouth, when it may be proper to send them, this is ordered to be done if it meets with Your Majesty's gracious Approbation.

near Whitehall 19*th June* [1779] Amherst.
½ *after* 11, P.M.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2666—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

Admiralty, *June* 20*th* 1779.

Lord Sandwich has the honour to forward to Your Majesty the dispatches from Sir Edward Hughes, containing an account of his having taken possession of Goree which the French had evacuated before his arrival.

Everything is in train for a general press ; and in consequence of a letter from the Admiralty to the Secretary at war Mr. Jenkinson has informed us that orders will be given to support the press with the aid of the military in several towns upon the coast which we have pointed out, which it is to be hoped will have a good effect.

Lord Sandwich sent yesterday to Mr. Harley to suggest to him the great service it would do if the City could be prevailed on to give bounties towards manning the fleet; Mr. Harley undertook the task with great chearfullness, and his letter which is enclosed gives great hopes of success.

Lord Sandwich allso sent on the same occasion to Mr. Coombe & Mr. Gascoigne in order to encourage them to exert their influence at Bristol & Liverpool, Your Majesty will find herewith Mr. Coombes answer; that from Mr. Gascoigne is not yet recieved as he is out of town.

Your Majesty will allso find in the box a correct state of the divisions in the house of Lords.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2667—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 259.

KEW, *June 20th* 1779.
$\frac{m}{30}$ *pt.* 4 P.M.

LORD NORTH—The Speech fully answers my expectation and is framed in handsomer language than common; The Debate that may arise on the new Writ for the Lord Advocate is a clear reason for postponing the Prorogation to Tuesday. I do not Suppose after the promise You have made unto the Moneyed Men that no additional Paper Currency shall be brought into the Market untill October, that You can wish to apply for any further Aid from Parliament, therefore I cannot see the Shaddow of ground for delaying the Prorogation; the very wicked Protest is proof sufficient that whilst Parliament sits new matter to cause if possible general dissatisfaction is the object of Opposition; the high opinion I have of the Chancellor makes Me therefore surprised he can doubt the propriety of this measure. By the last paragraph of Your letter I see my confidence of the part You would Act when pressed by me was well founded; it is that will ever Secure You my warmest Support. I desire You will be at the Queen's House exactly at One o'clock tomorrow, if You have any appointments You may afterwards return to them.

You will as You have proposed make the arrangements for

Mr. Stewart and the Attorney General's friend, the latter will I fear and not without reason, greatly offend the Clergy.

No. 2668—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

ADMIRALTY, *June 20th* 1779.

In answer to your Majesty's question relative to the prorogation of the Parliament, Ld. Sandwich has the honour to inform your Majesty that it seemed to be understood yesterday that it was to be on Monday, tho' Ld. North had a leaning to defer it till Teusday, and Ld. Chancellor some inclination that it should continue sitting some time longer. Ld. George Germaine & Ld. Sandwich were very strong in opinion that the session should be ended on Monday.

The Thunderer and Intrepid are returned to Spithead without meeting Sir Charles Hardy, but an express is now going with orders to them to follow him without a moment's loss of time.

The Pheasant Cutter fell in with Sir C. Hardy's whole fleet on Friday afternoon 8 Leagues S.W. of Portland, but as the wind has been since, they are now certainly on their station off Ushant, & Brest.

Lord Sandwich has engaged Mr. Devaynes to propose to the India Company not only to build at their expence three Line of battle Ships & present them to your Majesty, but to give 10,000 £. to be disposed of in bounties for raising seamen for the fleet: he seems to have very little doubt of his success in both these objects.

It is not easy for Lord Sandwich to express the happiness he feels, at your Majesty's gracious approbation of his zeal in executing his duty.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2669—*Lord North to the King.*

[21 *June*, 1779.]

Lord North has the honour of informing his Majesty, that Leave has been given to bring in a bill for augmenting the Militia, & the bill has been presented & read a first time.

DOWNING STREET, ¼ *pt.* 9.

Enclosure.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

21st June 1779.

Speakers on Lord North's Motion for leave to bring in a Bill to augment the Militia.

Lord North moved this.

Mr. Fox on this got up and acquiesced in the Measure and threw out an Idea of sparing part of the Militia from hence for the defence of Ireland.

On this a Conversation arose not opposing the Motion but violently attacking the Conduct of Administration altho the Measure seemed to be almost unanimously adopted.

The Speakers on this were :—

For Administration.	Against them
Lord Beauchamp	Mr. Turner
Lord North, several times	Mr. Thos. Townshend
Lord Advocate of Scotland	Sir George Saville
Sir Edward Deering	Mr. Barre
Col[l] Onslow	Sir Edward Astley
	Lord J. Cavendish
	Lord George Gordon, and against the Measure.
	Mr. Aubrey.
	Sr. Wm. Meredith, and also against the Measure
	Mr. Dempster
	Mr. Burke
	Sir George Yonge
	Mr. David Hartley
	Mr. Sawbridge, violent & personal Attack against Lord North
	Mr. Conolly respectg. the present distressed State of Ireland and want of Cash.

21st June 1779

Speakers on the Motion for augmenting the Militia on which a Conversation ensued though not a regular Debate to oppose the Measure.

Lord North moved for leave to bring in a Bill to augment the Militia—and up several times.
Mr. Charles Fox
Mr. Turner
Lord Beauchamp
Mr. Thos. Townshend, not against the Motion but violent agt. Administration.
Sir George Saville
Mr. Barre, not to oppose the Measure, yet doubtful of it, violent agt. Administration & for removing them.
Lord Advocate
Sir Edward Astley
Mr. Sawbridge, violent attack on Adminn. & Lord North.
Mr. Conolly, as to the Situation of Ireland.
Lord John Cavendish
Lord George Gordon spoke against it & said he wd. vote against it.
Mr. Aubrey agt. the Adminn.
Sir Wm. Meredith seemed to be against the Measure.
Sir Edwd. Deering, for it
Mr. Dempster
Col. Onslow
Mr. Burke
Sir George Yonge
Mr. David Hartley, chiefly to give notice of his intention to move for the papers relative to the Spanish Mediation.

No. 2670—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 260.

KEW, *June 21st* 1779.
$\frac{m}{55}$ *pt.* 10 P.M.

Lord North's having moved for and since presented the Militia Bill is very proper; it is impossible to understand the list of Speakers this day, indeed the note at the bottom shews it was very irregular. I trust Ld. Sandwich will not on reconsideration wish to have a post facto Law when if the Bill is carried

through with dispatch the loss by going regularly through the business will not be many [*sic*].

I trust Lord North will let no delay arise any where at present; if he meets with it in any quarter, I shall instantly be ready to assist in removing it; but I hope after having so fully stated my sentiments this day to the Efficient Cabinet that I trust every one felt how I am interested in the present moment, and consequently will feel that they can alone hope for my Support by shewing zeal, assiduity and activity.

No. 2671—*Lord George Germain to the King.*

Lord George Germain has the honor of sending your Majesty the dispatches from New Yorke, the success of the Expedition to Virginia may be attended with the most happy consequences, if Major General Mathew can be reinforc'd.

Sir Henry Clinton in his other letters relapses into ill-humour and complains of orders which were absolutely discretionary, and left on purpose to his judgment from knowing that his Temper required management, but all the precautions taken are in vain. What relates to the Provincials was settled with Major Drummond and Lieutenant Colonel Innes, who assured me that those regulations would be agreeable to Sir Henry Clinton, and they both joined in opinion with the late Commissioners that the encouragement held out was absolutely necessary for your Majesty's service, what relates to the Rank of the officers was settled according to the regulations of Lord Amherst when he commanded in North America last war. When Innes and Drummond arrive at New York it is to be hoped the General will be sorry he has written such letters.

Pall Mall, *June 22nd* 1779. 1 *o'clock* P.M.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2672—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

Admiralty, *half past* 3 P.M.
June 22nd 1779.

Lord Sandwich delayed answering the note with which your Majesty honoured him yesterday evening till this time, in order

to get what information he could to enable him to give your Majesty some insight whither My Lord Chancellor had any particular object of coalition which led him to say what he did yesterday.

Lord Sandwich has seen Mr. Rigby who he thought the most likely person to inform him upon this subject, he says he is positive that Ld. Chancellor has no negociation in view, & that anything he may have said in conversation must have been quite general, & without relation to any special measure or wish of his own.

Mr. Rigby added that he himself had by Lord North's desire sounded Mr. Fox, and had had a long conversation with him, but that he finds him no way disposed to become a part of an administration in which Lord North is a principal.

Lord Sandwich does not see any necessity that the Parliament should sit till the Press has taken effect, but it seems to him necessary for his own safety, that an act should pass to indemnify him for having given orders in the face of several acts of Parliament; and he is much concerned to find that the Attorney General throws difficulties in the way of this measure, notwithstanding what passed yesterday in your Majesty's presence.

Every thing is settled for the Press to take place in the river tomorrow night, and 28 orders were issued last night to the distant parts of the kingdom to press from Act of Parliament protections; if no indemnity is to pass these orders must be recalled, as those who have signed them will be deemed highly criminal.

Lord Sandwich has allready seen the Chancellor and is going to him again to endeavour to procure his interposition in this dilemma.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2673—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of sending his Majesty several papers which have been just received from New York, together with some intelligence respecting the designs of France & Spain.

Lord Sandwich has been with Lord North do-day, & has

insisted upon the absolute necessity of a Bill, & that it ought not to be brought into the House till Thursday.

Lord North was so over whelmed with his Majesty's goodness & with the subject of this conversation, that he had not time to explain to him a circumstance to which he believes Lord Chancellor might allude. Lord North has great reason to believe that a considerable coalition might take place if Lord Gower were put at the Head of the Treasury in the room of Lord North, & is of opinion that a Coalition at this time would be every beneficial. Lord North who feels himself perfectly unequal to the present circumstances of the country recommends to his Majesty to consider the proposition, & to see how far, abler hands, an acquisition [of] strength; retaining the best part of the present ministry may go to save the country.

If Lord North should be authentically inform'd that He and He alone obstructs so desirable a measure He would be very uneasy at the thought, & would conceive it to be his duty to remove the obstacle.

DOWNING STREET,
June 4 [1779].

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2674—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 262.

KEW, *June* 22*nd* 1779.
$\frac{m}{15}$ *pt.* 5 P.M.

LORD NORTH—The different papers from America shew very clearly that had not Spain now thrown off the Mask that we should have soon found the Colonies sue for pardon to the Mother Country; I do not yet despair that with the activity Clinton is inclined to addopt, and the Indians in the Rear, that the Provinces will even now submit.

I hope Lord North will forward Lord Sandwich's wishes concerning the Bill for taking off for the present minute the exemptions by particular Acts of Parliament from Serving on Board of the Fleet, who seems to think the Attorney General

adverse to the Measure; I trust Lord North will not at a[s] serious moment as the present be led away from what seems so very necessary a measure. I trust the House will sit every day but Sunday to expedite business as much as possible.

I owne the Chancellor's language yesterday did not please me, Lord North's explanation does not amend it; the Protest shews that Independency of America is still acraved [*sic*] by the Opposition; it is no compliment when I say Lord Gower would be a poor substitute to Lord North; I cannot approve of such a measure. What I said yesterday was the dictates of frequent and severe self examination, I never can depart from it, before I will ever hear of any Man's readiness to come into Office I will expect to see it signed under his hand that He is resolved to keep the Empire entire and that no troops shall be consequently withdrawn from thence, nor Independence ever allowed.

As to the Advice of the Intentions of France and Spain; whenever an attempt is made on Ireland I should think they will also make one on this Island to keep men's minds in suspense and consequently try to work on the passions, when a few ragged Highlanders could allarm the Nation, there is no doubt 20,000 Men Landed in England and 10,000 in Ireland would cause great fear.

No. 2675.

House of Commons.

22nd June 1779.

Speakers in a conversation which arose on the Motion for reading the Bill for augmenting the Militia a Second time.

For

Lord North moved to read the Bill a second time—

on this a general Conversation arose not to oppose the Second reading of the Bill, but on the State of Affairs, the Situation of this Country, and an attack on the present Administration—in which the Speakers were on the side of Adminn.

	Against
Lord Nugent	Sir George Yonge
Mr. Wedderburne	Mr. Burgoyne
Mr. Gilbert	Sir Chas. Bunbury
Mr. Rd. Whitworth	Sir George Saville
Lord Advocate	Mr. Byng
Lord North	Mr. Fox
Sir Wm. Cunningham as to the fencible Men marching into England	Lord Howe
	Mr. Thomas Townshend
	Lord George Cavendish
Col. Onslow.	Sir Edward Astley
	Mr. Turner.

The Bill read a Second time and no division.

No. 2676—*Mr. Robinson to the King.*

Mr. Robinson is extremely sorry that the State of the Speakers on Tuesday was not agreeable to Your Majesty's expectations; The debate was so desultory from the Question and not in Opposition to the Motion, that Mr. Robinson put them down as they Spoke remarking only on some Gentlemen where they differed much from the Subject. Mr. Robinson has now drawn out a List of the Speakers in a different Mode and wishes that this may be agreeable to your Majesty.

Downing Street,
23*rd June*, 1779.

No. 2677—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of informing his Majesty that the Hs. of Commons has gone through the Committee upon the additional Militia Bill, & read twice the Bill for allowing the pressing of persons under the protection of Parliamentary exemptions.

Downing Street,
June 24 [1779] ¾ *pt.* 12 A.M.

Enclosure.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

23rd June 1779.

SPEAKERS on the Bill for Augmenting the Militia in the Committee of the whole House.

For the Bill	Against parts of it altho' approving the Principle
Lord North—several times	Sir George Yonge, several times
Lord Beauchamp, several times	Sir George Saville, sevl. times
Sir Grey Cooper	Mr. Powis
Mr. Robinson	Sr. P. J. Clarke
Mr. Dempster	Sir Wm. Meredith
Mr. Freeman	Lord Wm. Gordon
Ld. Ffrederick Campbell	Mr. Brett
Mr. Pownall	Mr. Turner
Mr. Coombe	Sr. Fletcher Norton—against the Measure, dangerous to coerce, might raise Tumults & insurrections.
Mr. Burrell	
Mr. Wyldbore	
Mr. Whitworth	Mr. Grenville
Mr. Whitworth	Mr. Aubrey
Mr. Rigby	Lord Ongley, on the same ground as the Speaker.
Lord Nugent	
Lord Advocate	Mr. W. Hartley
Mr. Macdonall	Mr. Tuffnell
Sr. Rd. Sutton	Sir Edwd. Astley
Mr. Attorney General	Mr. D. Hartley
Mr. Secy. at War.	Ld. George Cavendish
	Mr. Bynge

No Division on any Question relative to it.

Mr. Attorney Genl. moved for leave to bring in a Bill to suspend sevl. Acts which grants protection to many Seafaring Persons.

For it.	Against proceedg. in it at so late an Hour & agt. readg. it with such dispatch.
Mr. Attorney General	Sir George Saville
Mr. Dempster	Sir George Yonge
Sr. Grey Cooper	Sr. P. J. Clarke
Col. Onslow.	Mr. David Hartley
	Ld. George Cavendish.

The above mentioned Gentlemen who spoke agt. the bringg. in & proceeding on the Bill after debate left the House and then the Bill was read a first & Second time and committed for tomorrow without any Division.

No. 2678—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 264.

KEW, *June 24th* 1779.
$\frac{m}{-}$ *pt.* 7 A.M.

LORD NORTH—It is very pleasing to me to find the Militia Additional Bill went yesterday through the Committee and that the Bill for allowing the Pressing of Persons under the Protection of Parliamentary Exemptions was twice Read; this is a day earlier than I expected, consequently every way right for the more dispatch is shewn the more the Nation will feel every measure is taken to Arm this Country.

Lord Amherst talked Yesterday with great weight on the necessity of encreasing the Generals in Ireland and the Encamping the whole Irish Army; but as with the question is involved the money necessary for this business I could not think it right to Issue any orders on the Subject untill I have heard Your Sentiments.

I have order Lieut. Gens. Haviland and Fraser and Major Gens. Grey and Philipson to be put on the Staff of this Island, the first to be stationed at the West Coast and Cumberland will be his Head Quarters, the Second to joint the Camp at Coxheath, the third to join Sir D. Lindsay at Plymouth and the Fourth to go to one of the Cavalry Camps.

The Duke of Rutland and the E. of Harrington will raise R[egimen]ts. at their own expense and without any unreasonable jobs for Officers. Col. St. Leger will command the first Regt. and Ld. Harrington the other without any Additional Rank.

Tents are ordered for Such Regiments of Militia as are not on Coast Duty to Enable them to take the field if the necessity should arise ; four Regiments of Dragoons are ordered to encamp in addition to those under similar Orders. In short I begin to see that I shall soon have enfused some of that Spirit which I thank Heaven ever attends me when under difficulties ; I know very well the various hazards we are open to ; but I trust in the Protection of the Almighty, in the justness of the Cause, the Uprightness of my own Intentions, and my determination to shew my People that my Life is always Ready to be risked for their Safety or Prosperity.

No. 2679.

House of Commons.

24th June 1779.

Speakers in the House of Commons on the report of the Militia Bill.

For it.	Against some parts of it.
Mr. Rd. Whitworth	Sir George Yonge
Ld. Nugent	Sir George Saville
Ld. Beauchamp	Mr. Powis
Lord North	Mr. Thos. Townshend for the general principle of the Bill but a violent attack on Admn. and the mode of passg. and parts of the Bill.
	Mr. Turner.
	Sr. Wm. Meredith.
	Mr. Fox, like as Mr. Thos. Townshend.

Bill with the Clauses & Amendments as reported, agreed to

without any division. Further Clause offered by Mr. Pulteney—debate on it arose.

For	Agt.
Mr. Pulteney	Sir Wm. Meredith Sir Edwd. Astley Mr. Thos. Walpole.

Clause rejected without a Division and the Bill then ordered to be ingrossed.

The Bill for suspending the Acts grantg. Protection to certain Persons was then gone into in the Committee.

For the Bill	Against it & for some Exemptions
Mr. Attorney General Mr. Dempster to answer Mr. Baker's objections	Mr. Chas. Turner Sr. Php. J. Clarke for exemptn. to some persons in the Coal Trade. Mr. Brett, the like. Mr. Thos. Dundas, the like. Mr. Baker, questiong. the necessity of it if the Men cd. be raised by Subscrin. instancg. the East India Co. but wantg. to know when such aids to the Crown were legal.

Bill passed in the Committee, reported, and ordered to be ingrossed.

The Order of the Day for the Committee on the American papers was then called for and read and A Motion made to Adjourn it until Tuesday next on which a general Conversation arose, in which the Speakers were :

For Government	Against
Lord North Lord George Germain Sir Rd. Sutton	Sir Wm. Howe Mr. Thos. Townshend Lord Howe

For Government	Against
Mr. Attorney General	Mr. Barre, several times, and called to order by the Chair, after a long desultory Speech agt. Administration and repeatg. it.
Mr. Rigby to order	
Lord Frederick Campbell, the like.	

This Committee adjourned until Tuesday next.

The Militia and the Suspensions Bills were then severally read and passed without any Division, and the House adjourned until Tuesday next.

No. 2680—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has seen Lord Amherst this morning, & has, in consequence of his Lordship's visit, sent to apprize Sr Richd. Heron of the necessity of having the army in Ireland encamp'd.

If the Irish want money, no way is given to them to obtain it but by calling the Parliament. All the English Funds, except the Civil List, are specifically appropriated, & can not afford them any assistance.

Lord North submits to his Majesty, whether it may not be proper, after the handsome offer made by the Duke of Rutland, to give him the Lieutenancy of Leicestershire, even without application, & as a mark of his Majesty's approbation of the zeal his Grace has shewn on the present occasion.

Thursday, June 24 [1779],
3 *o'clock* P.M.

No. 2681—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 265.

QUEENS HOUSE, *June 24th* 1779.
$\frac{m}{40}$ *pt.* 6 P.M.

LORD NORTH—Seeing the necessity of Encamping the Troops in Ireland in the same light as Lord Amherst, I have directed Lord Weymouth to mention the measure at the Cabinet Dinner this day, that I[n] consequence of the opinion formed Lord Weymouth may write to the Lord Lieutenant, the absolute Order

for that measure and mention that the directions received from Me were in consequence of the Advice offered unto Me.

The thought of appointing the D. of Rutland Lord Lieutenant of Leicester Shire on his very handsome offer, is very wise and well timed; I should think that I cannot too soon conferr this Mark of Approbation upon Him.

No. 2682—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 266.

KEW, *June 25th* 1779, $\frac{m}{10}$ *pt.* 7 A.M.

The hearing that the Additional Militia Bill and the one for Pressing persons Exempted by Acts of Parliament have passed the House of Commons, and that it hath adjourned untill Tuesday meets with my fullest Approbation.

The mode of acquainting the Duke of Rutland may add to the favour; he is a particular Young Man, a Message from Administration will probably not please him, I should think either that Lord Amherst whom he has Seen on his Proposal should acquaint Him with my favorable intentions, or that I ought to tell it him myself; the first I owne appears to me the most easy and least subject to objection; but I shall settle the whole when I see Lord North this day.

No. 2683—*Mr. Jenkinson to the King.*

I have had an opportunity of having some conversation with Mr. Robinson this morning. I find that Lord North had told Him in general what had passed at the Queen's Palace on Monday. He added that Lord North had said that Your Majesty had been very eloquent & commended much what your Majesty had been pleased to say. He further told me that Lord North was now in good Spirits & determined to go on.

From your Majesty's Dutyfull Subject C. JENKINSON.

WAR OFFICE,
June 25th 1779.
2 *o'Clock.*

No. 2684—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

ADMIRALTY, *June 26th* 1779.

Lord Sandwich has the honour to inform your Majesty that he has seen Sir William Gordon, & that he finds from conversing with him that he has no authentick information of any meeting or agreement made between any of your Majesty's servants to support Ld. North ; but that he thinks they intend to do so from appearances, & from the language of persons who are pretty well informed.

Ld. Sandwich pressed him closely to know whither any of those persons were Lord Chancellor, Ld. Gower, or Lord Weymouth, he answered in the negative ; and Your Majesty may depend that he told Ld. S. all he knew, and that his intelligence is little better than common report.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2685—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of inclosing a letter of intelligence from Mr. Wentworth. His Dutch Correspondents are, I believe, very ill-inform'd, if they think that the Brest fleet is not sail'd.

Lord North had yesterday some conversation with Sr. George Rodney, who thinks that at this time of the year the Spanish Fleet will be about five weeks in their passage from Cadiz to Cape Finisterre, as the North Wind, which, at this season blows constantly on the Coast of Portugal, will oblige them to sail a great way to the Westward, and as their want of skill in navigation will retard them longer than an English or French Squadron. In this case Lord North hopes that at least seven Men of War will have join'd Sr. Thos. Hardy before the fleets meet, & then he thinks that England will not have much to fear from the issue of the Action.

Lord North desired Governor Johnstone to sound the D. of Rutland, but he has not since heard from him. If, however, the Duke should be at Court on Wednesday, & his Majesty would send for him into the Closet, & communicate to him his gracious

intentions, Lord North has no doubt but it will be highly pleasing to his Grace.

Lord North thinks himself obliged to repeat to his Majesty that he finds in every quarter that Sr. John Irwin tho well esteem'd as a gentleman, is in no great estimation as a General & the World is very uneasy about his having the command in Ireland in such a perilous moment as the present.

Downing Street, *June 27th* 1779.

No. 2686—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 267.

Kew, *June 27th* 1779.

Lord North—The enclosed papers which I return, confirm me in an opinion long intertained that America unless this Summer Supported by a Bourbon Fleet must sue for Peace, and that it would ever have been unwise to have done more than what is now addopted, the enabling the Commander in Chief to put Provinces at Peace, but that Propositions must come from them to Us, no farther ones be sent from hence; they ever tend only to encrease the demands. I can never agree to healing over an uncured wound, it must be probed to the bottom, if it then proves Sound, no one will be more ready to forget offences, but no one sees more forcibly the necessity of preventing the like mischief by America's feeling, She has not been a gainer by the contest; yet after that I would shew that the Parents heart is still affectionate to the penitent Child.

Mr. Harris's letter shews that nothing can with success be gained from Russia, and it confirms me in the impropriety of having sent Mr. Eden to Copenhagen, I said so at the time I trust this Example will be a reason for not in future taking steps on such very slight foundation.

Col. Luttrel's opinion of the self established Corps in Ireland is not much to their advantage.

I desire Ld. North will see that Lord Weymouth puts a final stop to the intercourse between Dover and Calais, we can gain nothing by the Communication, and certainly it enables the disaffected to give much intelligence to our avowed Enemies.

The Council must in the Course of this Week issue the

necessary orders to the Lord Lieutenants and other Magistrates enabling them to drive the Cattle and remove or destroy Hay Stacks etc. if an Enemy should land, the Generals should also have instructions as well as the others how to sign certificates of the damage done on such occasions to individuals that Parliament may indemnify the Sufferers. Also the Lord Lieutenants must have letters as soon as the Additional Militia Bill is past directing them to form additional Regiments or additional Companies at their option as the different Circumstances of their Counties will make most advisable; I trust these Several Measures will be so far digested that on Wednesday I may receive notice that all are ready for my final Approbation. The Cabinet for communicating the Speech must be on Wednesday previous to my going to Parliament.

No. 2687—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 268.

KEW, *June 27th* 1779.
$\frac{m}{2}$ *pt.* 2 P.M.

The intelligence transmitted by Mr. Wentworth cannot have much weight when so ill informed as to Suppose the Brest Fleet not yet sailed; Sir Geo. Rodney's idea that the Spanish Fleet cannot reach Cape Finisterre under a Voyage of five weeks is very comfortable and will certainly enable Sir Charles Hardie's having by that time 38 Ships of the Line which certainly may give a very good account of the Enemy should they amount to 50. Ships of the Line. I shall certainly follow Lord North's hint in taking the first Opportunity I shall meet with the D. of Rutland to offer him personally the Lieutenancy. I am certain no Military Man can have insinuated to Lord North the placing another Commander in Ireland instead of Sir John Irwin, such a Measure would be disgracing an amiable Man; it is not by continual removals and changing measures according to every insinuation that I can steer the Bark in difficult times, but by honorably Supporting those who are zealous in my Service; if the advice had been to send a good General below him to his assistance that might have deserved attention, Irwin is practicable and would hear advice.

No. 2688—*Mr. Jenkinson to the King.*

I presume to trouble your Majesty with these Beating Orders for your Royal Signature; Lord Amherst has sent me only the Names of two of the Commandants of these new Corps; the third is left therefore blank, but if your Majesty shall be pleased to sign it, I will take care that it shall not be issued, till filled up with the Name of some Colonel approved of by your Majesty. I was unwilling that on my part there should be any Delay in this Busyness.

From Your Majesty's Dutyfull Subject, C. JENKINSON.

June 28th 1779,
½ *past* 10.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2689—*The King to Lord North.*

KEW, *June 29th* 1779,
$\frac{m}{10}$ *pt.* 8 A.M.

LORD NORTH—The postponing the Additional Militia Bill from Yesterday to this day, shews less zeal at this hour in the House of Lords than I should have expected; this will infalably deferr the Prorogation untill Thursday; I see no reason why the Cabinet on the Speech may not still be tomorrow.

No. 2690—*Mr. Jenkinson to the King.*

As the Inclosed Letter from Mr. Robinson will apprize your Majesty of some Extraordinary Transactions that passed yesterday, I thought it proper that your Majesty should peruse it before you see any of the Ministers; I need not trouble your Majesty to return it to me; as I shall pay my Duty to you to-day at St. James's.

From Your Majesty's Dutyfull Subject, C. JENKINSON.

PARLT. STREET,
June 30th 1779.
¼ *past* 7.

Since writing the above, I have received two other Notes from Mr. Robinson which I think it right to send your Majesty.

No. 2691—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of inclosing a letter which he has just received from Mr. Wentworth containing good news if confirm'd, but Lord North has heard nothing of it from Sr. Robert Herries, or from any other quarter.

Mr. Forth says that by a letter he has received to-day from Paris, he learns that Mr. de Sartine has promised the King of France that, by the 15th of August, he will have ready for sea 30 ships of war 15 of which will be of the line. That with this view he has purchased ships in Denmark, Sweden, Genoa & in every other place where ships are to be bought. Mr. F's advices add, that the French King who had been highly pleased at the behaviour of the Bell Poule, was extremely chagrined when he heard of the taking of the Licorne & the Pallas.

Lord North has sent to Sr. Robt. Herries to desire to know what news he has received concerning the appointment of Comrs. from Virginia, Maryland, & the province of Massachusets Bay.

Wednesday Eveng.
June 30th [1779].

No. 2692—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North perceiving that his Majesty has misunderstood the note he took the liberty of sending yesterday, begs leave to explain himself.

If his Majesty would dismiss Lord North, He does not suppose that any of the Arrangements prepared should take place. He mention'd them because it was his duty, & because the places must be fill'd up, not as having any wish concerning them himself, nor as thinking they would give any considerable strength to Government. Lord North hopes that his Majesty will not think it unbecoming in Lord North to renew at the close of a Session a request which he has made every year since he has been in office, especially, as he feels himself blamable for his long continuance in his present situation, which, he is convinced, is to be reckoned among the principal causes of the present dangerous position of this country.

No. 2693—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

ADMIRALTY, *June* 30*th* 1779.

The reason for giving your Majesty this trouble is to inform your Majesty that Mr. Gascoigne will attend at the Levee to day with an address from the town of Liverpool, where very liberal contributions are going on for manning the fleet.

Lord Sandwich has had a good deal of conversation with Ld. Dartmouth, who is very firm & right in his ideas concerning your Majesty's government, he seems to think that all negociation is over; and that Ld. North ought & must continue to execute your Majesty's business, without which everything would run to anarchy & confusion.

No. 2694—*Mr. Jenkinson to the King.*

Since I wrote to your Majesty I find that Mr. Robinson was mistaken in supposing that the Lords went into the Committee on the Militia Bill last night & made the Amendments; They adjourned the Consideration of it till to-day. Your Majesty will be pleased to observe that the Bill, as it stands at present, does not order the Militia to be doubled, but leaves it in your Majesty's power to augment it in any proportion, as the Occasion may require.

From your Majesty's Dutyfull Subject C. JENKINSON.

PARLT. STREET,
June 30*th*.
25 *p*. 10.

No. 2695—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of informing his Majesty that he has good reason to believe that the Attorney General will demand an audience of his Majesty tomorrow in order to resign his office, Lord North thought it right that his Majesty should be apprized of this in order that he may not be surprized if it should happen, and that his Majesty may, if he shall think proper, endeavour to persuade him to continue, which his Majesty may, perhaps, be

able to do; Lord North humbly begs leave to submit to his Majesty what a helpless and unsupported state he will be reduced to if the Atty. Genl. quits his situation, and how impossible it will be for him to undertake to carry his Majesty's business through another Session of Parliament.

Downing Street, *July 1st* 1779.

P.S. Lord North proposes, with his Majesty's permission to write to the two Bishops to kiss hands tomorrow if it is not inconvenient to them. N.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2696—*The King to Lord North.*

Kew,
July 2nd 1779,
m/ pt. 7 A.M.

I cannot give a stronger proof of my desire to forward any wish of Lord North's, than in chearfully undertaking, if the Attorney General comes this day to resign, to employ every argument that I may think capable of persuading him to remain in my Service; but I never can subscribe to the idea that Lord North will be helpless and unsupported if, I should not succeed; I feel and not without well grounded proof, that the want of support Lord North has complained of, has greatly arisen from jealousy of the Attorney's too great influence; besides the Arrangement I have just made for the Lord Advocate solely arose from a doubt whether the Attorney would continue, and consequently that Lord North might be certain of an able debater at all times in the House of Commons; no man has a right to talk of leaving me at this Hour.

The Bishops may kiss hands this day.

Draft, endorsed by the King.

No. 2697—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of informing his Majesty, that the House of Commons has pass'd the amended Militia Bill, and that

there will be no difficulty or objection to his Majesty's proroguing Parliament tomorrow ; as no money Bill remains to be pass'd, it is probable that the Speaker will make no speech to his Majesty on the throne. There were two Divisions in the course of the day, both upon points of order, and upon questions whether the Lords were competent to make the amendments to the Bill that they made. The numbers on each Division were as follows :

1st Division		2nd Division	
Ayes	63	Ayes	51
Noes	45	Noes	23

Lord North has received his Majesty's letter upon the subject of the Attorney General. He had before seen him, and thinks him more determined to go on than he was, as the conversation he had with him was in the House it could not be long or full.

DOWNING STREET,
July 2nd [1779],
P.M. 8 *o'clock.*

Enclosure.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

2nd July 1779

SPEAKERS on the Militia Bill returned from the Lords

For taking the Amendmts. into consideration.	Against it on the Principle that this Bill was a Money Bill and that the Lords ought not to have amended it.
Sir Grey Cooper.	Sir Adam Ferguson.
Lord Beauchamp.	Sir P. J. Clerke.
Mr. Secretary at War.	Sir George Yonge.
Mr. Rd. Whitworth.	Mr. Thos. Townshend.
Lord North.	Mr. Fox.
	Mr. Dunning.

The House divided on the Question—Ayes 64
Noes 45.

Debate on the first Amendment.

For it	Against it
Lord Nugent.	Sir Philip Clerk.
Lord North.	Sir George Yonge.
Sir Grey Cooper.	Sir Joseph Mawbey.
	Sir J. Lutterell.
	Sir Wm. Meredith.

The House divided—Ayes 51
Noes 23

Then the House went thro' the Amendments, agreed to them, and passed the Bill to be returned to the other House.

No. 2698—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 269.

KEW,
July 2nd 1779,
m/8 pt. 10 P.M.

I shall certainly be ready at St. James's to go to the House of Lords by One tomorrow and shall apprize the Chancellor if he has not left Lord Weymouth's Office by that time of my waiting for his going to the House; indeed the business for Cabinet tomorrow is so plain that I cannot see how it can detain any time Sir Charles Hardie must be commended for not having come within the Channel, and he must be ordered to keep far enough out not to be forced in by a Westerly wind. I am confident my language was the only one fit to be held to the Attorney; the shewing him that if he continues to Support in his present Office he will meet with my countenance in his profession as events naturally arize in short I shewed him by inference not words that it was more his interest to be faithful than to take any other line of conduct which would destroy him with me and make him not rise in the opinion of any party, his quickness seemed without saying any thing to feel the weight of all I meant to convey.

Draft.

No. 2699—*Mr. Robinson to the King.*

Mr. Robinson hopes that he will not transgress too much on your Majesty's Goodness by presuming to acquaint your Majesty, that the Attorney General on Friday Evening at the House of Commons expressed himself to Mr. Robinson as highly honoured by the most gracious reception which your Majesty had been pleased to give him, and as most feelingly sensible of your Majesty's great Goodness and condescending conversation. His temper of Mind was, almost in every thing, as cou'd be wished, for carrying on your Majesty's Government with Vigour, and Effect, and it appears that he continues so, by the Letter to Mr. Robinson which he transmits herein for your Majesty's perusal, thinking that it may not be disagreeable to your Majesty to see the Operation of your Majesty's Conversation with him.

Syon Hill,
4th July 1779,
8 A.M.

No. 2700—*Mr. Robinson to the King.*

Mr. Robinson has the Honour to send to Your Majesty the Dispatches received from St. Lucie yesterday afternoon ; and he begs leave to mention to Your Majesty that the Provisions so much complained of, are the Cargoes of those three Victuallers, which laid so many Months in the West Indies waiting for the arrival of the Troops. Their Inconveniences, he, however, trusts wou'd be intirely removed by the other Fleet having arrived safe.

Syon Hill,
5th July 1779,
9 A.M.

No. 2701—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 270.

Windsor Castle,
July 5th 1779,
m/ pt. P.M.

Lord North has very properly transmitted a letter that contains intelligence I ought to be acquainted with, I should have

returned it sooner but had no Key to the Box was forced to send for a Lock Smith before I could open it. Lord Sandwich ought to have notice concerning Jersey and Guernsey that a fleet of proper Vessels may be kept there, and He should transmit that part of the intelligence to Sir Charles Hardie, who, I trust will without loss of time if drove to Torbay attempt to regain his Station without the Mouth of the Channel.

Might not some attempt be made to intercept the Convoy from L'Orient to North America.

No. 2702—*Intelligence.*

Extract. [In the King's handwriting.] PARIS, *July 1st* 1779.

The preparations for Embarkation from St. Maloes and Havre are in such forwardness that if any unfortunate Event should attend Sir Charles Hardies Fleet, an Invasion will certainly be attempted 26,000 chiefly Infantry is the strength of the Army, if successful, a Camp is forming under Mr. de Chabot of 16 Batt. 8 Regt. of Cavalry and 2000 Dragoons to reinforce them. They take Beds for the Wounded and Oxen to draw the Artillery; [from] the Number of Irish Serjeants a diversion in Ireland might be expected; but the principal Object is on Portsmouth and Plymouth. As soon as the Ships are ready at Toulon an Expedition will take place under Mr. d'Egmont; three Frigates are going with a Convoy from l'Orient to North America. The 9 Ships from Ferrol have joined Mr. d'Orvilliers; but the Cadiz Fleet detained by contrary Winds.

Lauzun is gone or going to Jersey and Guernsey if He succeeds at the first. All the Dutch Ships are ordered from St. Maloes and Havre.

No. 2703—*Mr. Robinson to the King.*

Mr. Robinson has the Honour to transmit to Your Majesty some papers of Intelligence which he received last Night by a Gentleman just come from Paris. He begs leave also to mention to Your Majesty, that Lord North, last Night, said he wou'd certainly talk to Your Majesty fully this Day on the Subject of Arangements, but he thinks, that the proposed Ones will not give

effective Strength to Government, and will disoblige all those to be removed for them. He has consented however that Mr. Robinson shall converse with the Attorney General upon Lord Hillsborough's having the Seals in the room of Lord Suffolk, which Mr. Robinson will take the first Opportunity to do. Mr. Robinson begs leave to add, that 50,000 £ for the Extraordinaries of this Army has been sent to General Grant by two different Conveyances, and it is hoped the Subsistence for these Troops has been also sent out, which the Treasury Board yesterday have ordered to be inquired into of the Paymaster General and Remitters.

Syon Hill,
7th July 1779,
9 A.M.

No. 2704—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

Admiralty,
July 8th 1779.

Lord Sandwich takes the liberty to trouble your Majesty with the perusal of the letter which he intends to send to Sir Charles Hardy by a Messenger this evening, with orders to proceed again to Sea as soon as the wind will permit without waiting for any junction. Lord Sandwich hopes that in this letter he has executed your Majesty's commands ; but if he has mistaken your Majesty's intentions, there will be time to make any alterations that may be thought proper when he recieves your additional commands.

Your Majesty will find herewith a letter from the Captain of the Prince George to the Comptroller of the Navy, giving a minute account of the qualities of some of the most capital Ships of the fleet ; as allso the Comptrollers ideas concerning the Canonades.

Sir Charles Hardy will be ordered to keep far enough to the Westward to avoid being driven into Port.

No. 2705—*Lord George Germain to the King.*

Lord George Germain has the honor of sending your Majesty the dispatches from Sir Henry Clinton, Captain Fraser who brought them makes no doubt of Major General Prevots being in Possession of Charles Town tho' no authentick account had

arrived at New York of that Event when he left it; he was but Twenty days in his passage. There was a report from the West Indies that Comte d'Estaign had sail'd out of Martinico, was chased by Admiral Byron and that in returning the French had lost the Tonant of eighty guns commanded by Monsieur Bougainville and the Fantasque of sixty four, to avoid being taken they ran ashore. This account is said to be brought by the Solebay from Savannah in Georgia, who had it from the Arethusa which arrived there from St. Lucia, but as no mention is made of the date when the Arethusa left St. Lucia, it is impossible to give full credit to the report.

Pall Mall,
July 9th 1779,
m/15 *pt.* 9 P.M.

No. 2706—*Mr. Robinson to the King.*

Mr. Robinson has the Honour to transmit some Intelligence which he received, being a sequel to that, which Mr. Robinson had the Honour to send to Your Majesty on Wednesday last, and which Lord North omitted to deliver to your Majesty yesterday, and also some Intelligence received from Mr. Wentworth—and Mr. Robinson begs Permission to add a small pamphlet wrote by Mr. Macpherson, on materials from Mr. Robinson, upon the Conduct of Opposition this Winter, and which will be now immediately published.

Parliament Street,
10*th July* 1779,
30/*m p.* 4 P.M.

No. 2707—*Mr. Robinson to the King.*

Mr. Robinson had the Honour to receive Your Majesty's Commands on his coming to Syon Hill late last Night, and agreeably thereto most humbly submits to Your Majestys Consideration some Observations respecting the Houses on the Land purchased by your Majesty of Sir Charles Sheffield.

Mr. Robinson also humbly begs leave to transmit to Your Majesty a Letter from Mr. Wier which Mr. Robinson received

this Morning, and which had been delayed by being directed under Cover to Mr. Todd at the General Post Office and not delivered by Captain Fraser until late last Night; and likewise to send some Advices received by Mr. Robinson from the East India Company. Mr. Robinson has just now had the Honour to receive Your Majestys Commands of this Morning which he will not fail to obey, and he is extremely sorry that from the inattention of the Box maker Your Majesty has such frequent and repeated trouble; Mr. Robinson has presumed to send two Boxes that Your Majesty may have a spare One, in case of wanting another.

Syon Hill,
11*th July* 1779,
2 P.M.

No. 2708—*Mr. Robinson to the King.*

Mr. Robinson begs leave to add that the Duke of Northumberland has just now left Mr. Robinson, having called upon him to talk to him, on the Mode of raising Men for His Majestys Service in the present Exigencies of the State, and to inform Your Majesty that a General Meeting of the Magistrates of Middlesex is to be held on Tuesday next when from the Ardor and Zeal which they have already expressed there is great Reason to hope that some very effective Measures will be pursued, altho they lament the Loss of the Militia Bill, by which, if it had passed, they wou'd have immediately, and in a very short Space of time, raised their new Battalions.

Syon Hill,
11*th July* 1779,
50/*m p.* 2 P.M.

No. 2709—*Mr. Robinson to the King.*

Mr. Robinson had the Honour to receive Your Majestys Commands at his return last Night from Bushy Park, where he went to report the Conversation he had with the Duke of Northumberland, and to meet Sir Richard Heron and Mr. Beresford, to discourse with Lord North on the Affairs of Ireland.

Mr. Robinson ever afraid of presuming too much on Your Majestys Goodness, avoided entering into a detail of the Conversation with the Duke of Northumberland, but Mr. Robinson hopes it may not be disagreeable to Your Majesty, to permit him to say, that he had stated to the Duke, the first Idea suggested by Your Majesty, and also something similar to the third; that the Duke seemed to think, that altho' the Zeal and Ardour of the Gentlemen were great, yet the first might be loading them too much, if the County shou'd hereafter be called upon to double their Militia, or to raise a greater Number, but he liked the third Idea of raising a considerable Corps of Horse, by the Gentlemen's raising, arming, and paying them at their own Expence, and hoped a very considerable Number might be so raised. His Grace stated an Idea of His, of forming a considerable Body of Volunteer Companies in the several parishes of Westminster to guard and protect that City and preserve the Peace thereof; but did not mention any Hopes of volunteer Companies to the Middlesex Militia; Though [he] stated another proposition of getting Gentlemen to be active in their parishes, and of giving Bounties to Persons who shall discover lurking Seamen, and give such Information as shall enable them to be impressed. His Grace is to be with Lord North at Bushy Park this Day at 12^{o} to talk further on the Subject, Mr. Robinson is going thither, and he will not fail to lay before Lord North and afterwards before the Duke of Northumberland, Your Majestys Sentiments on this Occasion, which will guide their Conduct.

Syon Hill,
12th July 1779,
10 A.M.

No. 2710—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of transmitting to his Majesty a letter from Sir Thomas Egerton who has upon this occasion as upon every other, shewn the most zealous and disinterested public spirit. His friends in Lancashire have always kept pace with him, and, therefore, Lord North hopes that it will not be thought necessary to check their ardor by the refusal of a blue facing, especially as all the regiments raised in that County viz: The Liverpool Blues in the last rebellion, The County Militia, The

Manchester and Liverpool Regiments now subsisting, have had that uniform without exception.

Lord North received the other inclosure yesterday from the Duke of Ancaster, and promised his Grace to transmit it immediately to his Majesty.

The Duke of Northumberland has pass'd a great part of this morning at Bushy, and has resolved to propose, at the County meeting tomorrow, First, a subscription for giving a bounty to Seamen, and a reward to those who discover and give information of seafaring men who abscond, 2ndly a Subscription to promote the raising of Volunteer companies for the Militia. 3. an association to find a certain number of men and horses, if call'd upon, and 4thly an association to come forth and serve for the protection of Peace of the County and of Westminster in case the situation of affairs should render it necessary to employ the Guards elsewhere, and they should not be replaced by any other military force. This Case will, probably happen, if an invasion should take place, and the preservation of the peace of the Capital will then be a point of the first importance.

Lord North has not yet heard of the messengers he sent round the Cinque-Ports, but hopes that he shall be able on Wednesday to acquaint his Majesty with what may be depended upon these.

Bushy Park,
July 12*th* 1779.

No. 2711—*The King to Lord North.*

Windsor Castle,
July 12*th* 1779,
m/7 *pt.* 7 P.M.

Lord North—The request of Sir Thomas Egerton has been made by many of the other Corps raising at this time, and refused, therefore I do not see how I can consent to his having Blue facings, but as Lord North is so pressing on the Subject, I will converse on Wednesday on this matter with Lord Amherst; Sir Thomas cannot expect an answer on what I do not think a reasonable request till I have had due time to weigh its consequences; I know his zeal and that makes me not give an immediate answer which certainly if formed at this minute would be not favourable;

though I wish to shew him every encouragement I must avoid partiallity.

The D. of Ancaster shall certainly have the Lord Lieutenancy of the County of Lincoln, Lord North may notify this unto him.

I am sorry the D. of Northumberland among his propositions has not thought of the one most necessary at this hour, the assisting in raising Recruits for the Old Corps, the Press will Man the Fleet, but the Army has no assistance.

No. 2712—*Mr. Robinson to the King.*

Mr. Robinson has the Honour to transmit to your Majesty a packett of American News Papers which he received last Night, by the Grantham Pacquet Boat.

Syon Hill,
13*th July* 1779,
9 A.M.

No. 2713—*Lord George Germain to the King.*

Lord George Germain upon his return from St. James's yesterday received the enclos'd Letter from Sir William Pepperell with a Copy of an Address to your Majesty from many Loyal American Subjects which they desire to present. If your Majesty will be pleas'd to receive it this day at the Levee, a Committee is appointed to attend with it. If your Majesty wishes it to be postponed Lord George will signify your Majesty's commands to the Gentlemen of the Committee.

Pall Mall,
16*th July* 1779,
10 *m. pt.* 11 A.M.

No. 2714—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of inclosing a number of papers received from the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland respecting his want of money with a letter from Lord North to his Excellency on that subject; Notwithstanding what Lord North has written, He

submits to his Majesty, whether in this moment it will not be proper for the messenger who carries the letter to take with him a sum of £10,000 to answer immediate exigencies in case the Kingdom of Ireland should be really in that utter want of money which the Lord Lieutenant and his Secretary represent, unless Lord Buckingham can alledge very substantial and very ostensible reasons to the contrary Lord North is of opinion that a Grant of British money must be accompanied with a Proclamation for calling the Irish Parliament.

Bushy Park,
July 18*th* 1779.

No. 2715—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 271.

The conduct of the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland is incomprehensible, the answer wrote by Lord North to his letter is perfectly right; but I will permit £10,000 to be sent to answer immediate exigencies; but it is impossible for me to go farther; the Irish Parliament ought certainly to be convened.

Windsor Castle,
July 18*th* 1779.

No. 2716—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of inclosing for his Majesty's perusal, some extracts of letters written from Holland to Mr. Wentworth, and a note from Mr. Devaynes of information received from Mr. Panchaud. It appears from all these letters that the Cadiz fleet has sailed, and that the greatest part of it is to join Mr. D'Orvilliers. The Dutch letters by mistake say the number of the combined fleet will be 72 Ships of the Line, as, by their account it will not exceed, at the most, 66. But Lord North is afraid that they over-rate at the same time, the British Fleet which, in all probability, will not amount to 40 Ships of the Line when they will be call'd to give battle to the fleets of France and Spain.

Lord North has yesterday and today seen a gentleman lately arrived from Paris, who assures him, that four embarkations at St. Malo's, Granville, Havre de Grace and Dunkirk are upon the point of sailing for Rye, Winchelsea, Hastings and Pevensea. He seems to doubt of the embarkation at Dunkirk but speaks with greater confidence of the other three, and of the places where the disembarkations are intended. Although he gives some reason to believe his report, Lord North does not think it deserving of absolute credit. He is of opinion, however, that his story is plausible and probable enough to render it immediately necessary to keep an eye upon that part of the country and to take every step which may enable us to resist with success an invasion in that quarter. Lord North has communicated all this intelligence to Lord Sandwich and Lord Amherst.

Bushy Park,
July 18*th* 1779.

No. 2717—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 271.

Windsor Castle,
July 18*th* 1779,
m/50 *pt.* 5 P.M.

The Extracts transmitted by Lord North, agree entirely with the letters that came Yesterday from Holland and makes me give credit to the Cadiz Fleet having sailed on the 23rd of June, but I do not give the Smallest credit to the whole Spanish Fleet being either in such Order or so manned as to be able to come and join the French, many Ships will perhaps; I owne I have not the smallest anxiety if the Ships already under the Command of Sir Charles Hardie, can bring the combined fleet of the Enemies to a close Action. I have the fullest confidence in Divine Providence; and that the Officers and Men of my Fleet will act with the ardour the times require; if the French should land Troops they will have thorough reason to repent of their temerity.

Lord North has done perfectly right in acquainting Lord Sandwich and Lord Amherst of this intelligence.

No. 2718—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of inclosing to his Majesty two more letters of intelligence. From all those which Lord North has seen, He is led to conclude that the sailing of the Cadiz fleet is absolutely certain; and that it is highly probable that almost the whole of it is destined to join Mr. D'Orvilliers, a few ships of the Line only being kept back to block up Gibraltar, and prevent the entry of any fresh supplies.

Sunday, July 20th [1779].

No. 2719—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 273.

I cannot say I credit the opinion that the whole Spanish Fleet from Cadiz will join Mr. d'Orvilliers if it did, I should not be apprehensive; I trust in Divine Providence, the Justice of Our cause the Bravery and Activity of my Navy; I wish Lord North could view it in the same light for the ease of his mind.

WINDSOR CASTLE,
July 20th 1779,
m/10 *pt.* 10 P.M.

No. 2720—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 273.

WINDSOR CASTLE,
July 24th 1779,
m/58 *pt.* 10 P.M.

The intelligence transmitted by Lord North so far differs from that brought yesterday by the Levant, that it particularises that the French and Spanish combined Fleets expect 12 Ships of the Line from Cadiz the other only mentioned that 32 Ships of the Line were off Cape St. Vincent, consequently we could not tell whether the whole or a part only should come towards us. I may appear strange, but I undoubtedly wish for the Action and feel a confidence in the Success that never attended any other event provided Mr. Buller will raise a Corps of Tinners on the same

foot the others raised with officers not in the Army do, I shall think it a most desirable object and of immediate use for the defence of Plymouth, I desire Lord North will instantly send to Lord Amherst that a proper proposal may be sent to Mr. Buller on what foot it may be raised. Lord Faulconberg's Regt. must not exceed 700, if more money is collected it ought to be for recruiting the old Corps.

No. 2721—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

Lord Sandwich has the honour to forward to your Majesty the letters received from Ld. Shuldham, with intelligence brought by the Captain of the Trimmer Privatier, which describes the two fleets as being likely soon to meet.

Your Majesty will allso find a letter giving an account of a fire at the Bakehouse at Plymouth, which however is happily extinguished (it is to be hoped) without doing much mischief.

Lord Sandwich allso sends a letter from Mr. Hatton by which your Majesty will percieve that the idea of our being able to borrow his house had not the least foundation. Every measure that can be thought of is in movement for the removal of the prisoners into the inland parts of the Kingdom, but many difficulties occurr, which (if possible) your Majesty may be assured shall be removed.

ADMIRALTY,
July 26th, 9 A.M.

No. 2722—*The King to Lord Sandwich.*

KEW,
July 29th 1779.

Lord Sandwich ought to be apprized that I yesterday mentioned to Lord Weymouth, Lord North and Lord Amherst how very essential it appears to me the making an alteration or rather Addition to the Instructions of the Admiralty to Sir Charles Hardy of the 19th of June, which matter will be laid before the Cabinet for consideration this day ; but as I am so fully impressed with the propriety of this measure, I cannot help stating my sentiments on paper and desiring Lord Sandwich to communicate it to the Cabinet.

I owne when that Instruction was sent it rather seemed to me to carry an appearance of leaning Sir Charles Hardy towards a retreat for further Succour, than leaving him at liberty to take the path the circumstances of the moment might point out as most efficacious; yet at that time, the Culloden, Resolution, Terrible, Formidable and Prudent had not joined him, it might therefore be cautious to give that advice; the situation is now changed, all those Ships have probably by this time reinforced the Admiral in the course of the Month of August scarcely more than the Marlborough, Ardent and Buffalo can be added to his Squadron; sure that cannot be thought such an additional strength as to render it advisable under the present circumstances to decline an Action; the Ardour now so conspicuous in the Fleet adds more real strength to it, than those three Ships obtained by a retreat, which could not fail of greatly humbling the Spirit of that Squadron. Besides if Sir Charles quits the Lizard Station Ireland is quite open to every attempt of the United fleets and the East India and Rich Fleet from the Islands must fall into their hands. I do not mean by this that Sir Charles Hardy should be ordered at all events to risk an Engagement; but should be informed that having received a very large reinforcement since the date of those Instructions, it is his duty to take such steps as the valour and discipline of the Squadron under his command may naturally encourage, and should the joint Fleets of the Enemies be too strong for him with any probability of Success to risk a general Action, that he should at least so watch them as to avail himself of every contingency. For it must be self evident that if so great and so well appointed a fleet retires into Port without having done every thing that prudence, a knowledge of the profession, and a spirit equal to the necessity of the times, could suggest towards distressing at least if not defeating the Fleets of our Enemys and protecting the extraordinary number of rich Merchant Men now on their return, that not only the greatest disgrace must fall upon the commanding officer and his recommenders but what is of infinitely more serious consequence the whole Nation must either be intimidated, or so disgusted as to produce universal confusion.

Draft and fair copy in the King's handwriting.

No. 2723—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

ADMIRALTY,
July 30th 1779.

Lord Sandwich has the honour to send to your Majesty a copy of the order that was sent by a messenger last night to Plymouth and in duplicate to Torbay, to be forwarded by the first opportunity to Sir Charles Hardy.

The order was agreed to in the Cabinet without much objection, and it was thought adviseable to insert the words that are underlined, in order to give more strength to the directions to him not to return into Port.

The words that were left out were *a sufficient cause.*

Enclosure.

29th July 1779.

COPY OF AN ORDER TO ADMIRAL SIR CHARLES HARDY.

By the Commissioners for executing the Office of Lord High Admiral of Great Britain and Ireland etc.

Whereas, by the intelligence which has been received, there is great reason to believe that the Combined Fleets of France and Spain have a design to invade the Kingdom of Great Britain or Ireland, or both, and also to intercept the East and West India homeward bound Fleets that are shortly expected; You are, in pursuance of His Majesty's pleasure signified to us by Lord Viscount Weymouth one of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, hereby required and directed to proceed as far to the westward as you may judge necessary, and to use all possible means, with the Force under your command, to prevent the Enemy from carrying their designs into execution; and not to leave your station while your provisions and water will allow you to keep the sea, unless driven off by stress of Weather, or that some other Event should happen which from your professional knowledge and experience, may lead you to think it *absolutely*

necessary to return into Port. Given under our hands the 29th July 1779.

SANDWICH.
LISBURNE.
H. PENTON.

By command of their Lordships

PH. STEPHENS.

No. 2724.

SHIPS UNDER THE COMMAND OF SIR CHAS. HARDIE KNT. THAT ARE COPPERED.

[Memorandum in the King's handwriting.]

[*July*, 1779.]

3.	74.	Invincible.	Shrewsbury.
		Hector.	
		Courageux.	
		Defence.	
		Bedford.	
	64.	Bienfaisant.	

No. 2725—*Mr. Jenkinson to the King.*

The Inclosed Proposal from the County of Nottingham is the same that came from the County of Oxford, and is I know what your Majesty is pleased to approve of; I should therefore have answer'd it without giving your Majesty this trouble, but that I did not think it right to take upon myself to say that any Regiment should be called by the Name of the Nottinghamshire Regiment, tho' I believe your Majesty has no Objection to it.

From your Majesty's Dutyfull Subject C. JENKINSON.

ADDISON PLACE,
July 30*th* [1779],
7 *o'clock.*

No. 2726—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of sending to his Majesty a packet of accounts which he has received from the Lord Lieutenant in

consequence of applications from hence; by which accounts it appears that the Treasury of Ireland is at present very low indeed, and by an Abstract made from all the accounts it appears that if all their payments in that kingdom are strictly and without a single exception confined to such military services as can not be postponed, there will probably be a deficiency of about £27000 Irish or £25000 English. Upon this view Lord North has order'd a Warrant for £50000 to be paid out of the Vote of Credit £10,000 of which are to be repaid to the Civil List, and the other £40,000 to be sent immediately to Ireland. Lord North upon the opinions of Lord Chancellor and Lord George Germain, has ventured to order the payment out of the Vote of Credit, but has thought [fit] to direct the warrant to be laid before the Attorney General before it is presented to his Majesty for his Royal Signature.

Lord North takes the liberty of adding two anonymous letters which he has received within these two days from the Bishop of Derry at Paris part of which he thinks must be exaggerated, viz: The amount of the French Forces destined to invade Ireland; but he thinks their intention to invade that Kingdom very probable, and he has no doubt but they will accompany their invasion with an offer of Independency, Liberty of Religion, and freedom of Trade. He thinks it very doubtful whether Galway is the intended place of disembarkation. Corke seems more probable or at least the neighbourhood of Corke.

Lord North has been for some days past a good deal indisposed, and is, by Dr. Warren's advice, going to lose a little blood, and to take Physick.

Lord North's indisposition, a board of Treasury, and the final settlement of the Cinque-Ports prevented him paying his duty this morning at St. James's.

No. 2727.

Extract of a Letter from Bristol dated July 30th [1779].

[In Lord North's handwriting.]

I have the pleasure to inform you that our Leeward Island fleet is just arrived all safe; They left the London ships Wednesday Evening four o'clock all well, off Scilly, not having

lost a single ship on the passage, they came under convoy of the St. Albans and Isis men of war; Admiral Byron with his whole fleet were at St. Kitts, and sail'd with them having given out that he intended to see them as far as the island of Bermudas; D'Estaign gave out that as soon as they were sail'd, He would attack the Island of Barbadoes; Admiral Byron with his fleet left them the second day after they sail'd, and from the course they steer'd, They imagined his sailing with them was only a feint to draw the French Fleet out; The Supply Sloop of war caught fire by accident the evening they sail'd from St. Kitts and is destroy'd, the people sav'd.

News is also that the Liverpool ships are arrived.

No. 2728—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 274.

KEW,
July 31*st* 1779,
m/59 *pt.* 7 A.M.

Lord North's Box did not arrive till all were in Bed I therefore have this morning examined the Abstract Account prepared here, and approve very much of the Steps taking for assisting Ireland with 50,000 £.

The Bishop of Derry's Accounts are highly exagerated, and his means of preventing the mischief so very dangerous that no man in his Senses could suggest it.

By yesterdays Mail I received an interception from Paris wrote by Creutz to the K. of Sweden dated July 15th which mentions, Il n'y a aucune nouvelle des deux Flottes; en attendant tout est pret pour la descente; il y a plus d'Artillerie, de munitions et de Vivres, qu'il n'en faut pour une plus grande Expedition; Je suis informé, que si la descente en Angleterre devient impracticable on en fera surement une en Irlande et on s'emparera de *Corke*, d'ou l'Armée Angloise en Amerique tire tous ses vivres; l'Armée francoise pourra y hiverner en sureté, le peuple etant riche en vivres, et les habitants, dont la plus grande partie est Catholique, très affectionnés à la France.

" Le Manifeste de la France prouve combien elle met d'Equité dans ses pretensions.

"Si l'Espagne n'essaye d'echec elle ne sera pas si facile a contenter, elle veut au moins Gibraltar, et si elle a des Succés marqués, elle voudra avoir aussi Mahon, si l'Angleterre n'est pas ecrasée elle ne peut souscrire a de telles conditions."

I hope Lord North will find benefit from the advice of Doctor Warren, and that he will soon remove his indisposition.

No. 2729—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 275.

KEW,
July 31*st* 1779,
m/29 *pt.* 4 P.M.

Lord North's account of the safe arrival of the Great Leeward Island Fleet has given me infinite pleasure; it was expected to be worth 4,000,000 Sterling.

I am surprised the Warrant for the Money to be sent to Ireland is not yet arrived. I suppose Mr. Robinson has had Lord North's Orders to forward it as soon as ready.

No. 2730—*Mr. Jenkinson to the King.*

ADDISCOMBE PLACE,
August 1*st* 1779,
7 P.M.

Genl. Lloyd, whom I believe your Majesty knows, came from Brussels yesterday morning; He sent to desire to speak to me, saying that He had some News of Importance to communicate to Me; I have seen Him this morning, and after having heard from Him all He had to tell, I desired Him to put it upon paper, and I send it your Majesty herewith. I cannot say that His Intelligence has made much Impression on me; and I should have doubted whether I ought to have sent it to your Majesty, if it had not been for the Character of Genl. Lloyd and the very earnest and confident manner, in which the Genl. deliver'd this Intelligence, to which I made Him sign His Name.

I trouble your Majesty with some Beating Orders for your Royal Signature.

I add a Letter from the Gentlemen of the County of Northampton with a Copy of the Answer I have return'd to it.

I add also a letter from Lord Macclesfield, giving an Account of what passed at the Meeting of the County of Oxford.

Lord Nugent has been very zealous in the County of Essex, but hitherto without success.

From your Majesty's Dutyfull Subject C. JENKINSON.

No. 2731—*Mr. Robinson to the King.*

When Mr. Robinson left Lord North at Bushy Park this afternoon, after ffour o'Clock he received Lord North's Orders to prepare the Irish Warrant for your Majestys Signature and when done to transmit it to your Majesty, with the Note and two papers of Intelligence from Lord North, and in Obedience thereto Mr. Robinson begs leave to submit them to your Majesty.

Mr. Robinson having just now received a Letter from Sir Rd. Heron acknowledging the receipt of the £10,000 in Bank Notes issued to Mr. Robinson, and sent over by a Treasury Messenger to the Lord Lieutenant, and also some Intelligence, has the Honour to submit these Papers to your Majesty.

SYON HILL,
2nd August 1779,
7 P.M.

No. 2732—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

BLACKHEATH,
August 3rd 1779.

Lord Sandwich has the honour to send to your Majesty two private letters that he has recieved from Admiral Barrington; your Majesty will at the same time recollect that it appears in Admiral Byrons letters that the Grampus with several other storeships was arrived at Antigua, so that the want of stores it is to be hoped will be no longer felt.

Lord Sandwich has written another private letter to Sir Charles Hardy pointing out to him in the strongest terms the bad consequences that will attend his coming into Port before he has seen the enemy's fleet.

Your Majesty will find two private letters relative to the defence of Plymouth, which Lord Sandwich allways fears will be the place attacked if an invasion is attempted ; Causand Bay is the only landing place, therefore too much attention cannot be used to strengthen that Post, and if the garrison could be reinforced it would be a happy event.

Just as the messenger was going with this box, Lord Sandwich recieves the letter from Captain Thompson of the Hyaena with an account of the loss of St. Vincents.

No. 2733—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of sending his Majesty the inclosed intelligence but he is much afraid that the Charles Town news is very doubtful, and suspects, that the Fleet seen by the Dutchman was the Fleet from Cadiz, which will, when join'd to the others, carry the number of the whole combined fleets to 70.

By a letter from Sir Rich. Heron it appears that the £10,000 was safely arrived in Ireland and lodged in the hands of Mr. Clements and that the Lord Lieutenant had appointed a meeting at the Castle to consider of the propriety of calling the Parliament.

Lord [North] takes this opportunity of sending two or three warrants for his Majesty's approbation and signature.

August 3rd 1779.

No. 2734—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 275.

WINDSOR CASTLE,
August 3rd 1779,
m/ pt. 3 P.M.

The Account of Charles Town is very probable ; but that the combined Fleets should exceed 50 Ships of the Line I do not credit ; but be it as it will I owne I think an Action highly desirable ; with the advantage of Seamanship which is much in our favour, the Enemy cannot fail of recieving much damage and the Lizard is so near our Ports that our disabled Ships have a safe retreat.

I return the Warrants to Lord North having signed them.

No. 2735—*Mr. Jenkinson to the King.*

PARLIAMENT STREET,
August 4th 1779.

That your Majesty may be apprized of the Number of Men that will be raised in consequence of the new Levies already order'd I think it right to send your Majesty the Inclosed Paper.

From Your Majesty's most Dutyfull Subject

C. JENKINSON.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2736—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of informing his Majesty that Lord Fauconberg and Mr. Dundas are arrived in London with a sufficient number of officers for their regiment, which they will immediately undertake. They are to attend at the Levée to-day.

Lord North has been desired by the Arch Bishop of Canterbury to mention to his Majesty the subscription that is now going round the Kingdom for the Society for the propagation of the Gospel. Lord North believes that the sum usually given by the house to these subscriptions is £800.

Friday, August 6th 1779.

No. 2737—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 276.

QUEENS HOUSE,
August 5th 1779,
m/11 *pt.* 6 P.M.

LORD NORTH—Having desired Lord George Germain to lay before the Meeting this day the account of the D. of Richmond's conduct, as related by Gentlemen who had attended the Assizes; and also Lord Amherst to produce the letters that have passed concerning the Driving the Cattle in Sussex, shou'd an Enemy land; I thought it right to enable You to state it as my opinion

that it is dangerous at this critical moment to continue the D. of Richmond Lord Lieutenant of that County; that Lord Pelham's name could not fail of pleasing the Old friends of the late D. of Newcastle, and that this mark of favour to that Lord will enable his eldest Son who is a very promising Young Man to be very useful in that County. I know some may talk of prudential considerations, but in difficult times it is more necessary to prevent evil, and as such it is not safe to let the D. of Richmond be in an executive office with his disposition to clogg the wheels of Government, and if he sees an opportunity to encourage insurrections; his conduct is authenticated by his own letters therefore if he is not removed, his example may very probably be followed by others; Your good sense must point out this strongly that I think it unnecessary to say anything farther on this subject.

Draft and fair copy in the King's handwriting.

No. 2738—*Mr. Jenkinson to the King.*

Lord Fauconberg and Mr. Thomas Dundas are very impatient to have their Beating Order, as I understand they have many Men already engaged to Them; I presume therefore to trouble your Majesty with this and with Major Campbell's Beating Orders for your Royal Signature.

In the return of Ld. Harrington's regiment, it appears to want only 17 of being compleat.

From your Majesty's Dutyfull Subject, C. Jenkinson.

Addiscombe Place,
August 7th 1779,
7 P.M.

No. 2739—*The King to Lord North.*

Lord North—The Account of the Arrival of the Bristol Share of the Jamaica Fleet Seems certain; it will be very happy if the rest arrives safe; I hope Lord North will defer sending the account of the rest till he can accompany it with the certainty

of the news; on this occasion I am happy he did not wait for that; but knowing now the probability I wish to wait for the whole.

WINDSOR CASTLE,
August 8th 1779,
m/3 *pt.* 2 P.M.

No. 2740—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

ADMIRALTY,
August 12th 1779.

Lord Sandwich has the honour to send to your Majesty the letter recieved yesterday from Sir Charles Hardy tho' it contains nothing very material; it is however to be observed that on seeing the strange fleet Sir Charles immediately made sail towards them.

Your Majesty will perceive from the several letters from Ld. Shuldham and Sir Thomas Pye the state of the reinforcements that are going out to join the fleet, and the zeal of the several captains in getting their ships to sea at this important crisis.

Lord Sandwich allso encloses a private letter from Sir Peter Parker on account of what he says relative to Captain Glover; no other particulars of this transaction are as yet come to hand.

Orders are gone for the Jupiter to join the fleet.

Since writing the above the Court Martial on Captain Glover is recieved, which your Majesty will find in one of the boxes.

No. 2741—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

BLACKHEATH,
August 16th 1779.

Lord Sandwich has the honour to send to your Majesty the copy of an order to Sir Charles Hardy, which was agreed upon in the Cabinet on Friday last, and dispatched by express on Saturday evening. Ld. Sandwich ventured to send it off before it had recieved your Majesty's approbation, being unwilling to lose any time, and knowing that your Majesty would not withhold

your sanction from any measure that is likely to add to the probability of bringing the fleets to action.

Lord Sandwich saw Mr. Robinson, who gives but a desponding account of Ld. North's present disposition, laments his inability to work him up to act decisively, and complains of his want of support in the Cabinet; tho' he acknowledges that Ld. North himself is the original cause of the bad situation of everything. He says that he is perswaded the Attorney General will oppose Ld. North the next Session, and that he will level his attacks particularly at Ld. Sandwich. Mr. Robinson gives it as his opinion that Ld. North really wishes to retire.

Your Majesty will observe in the progress, that the Montagu is to be launched the 28th instant, which is a month sooner than was originally expected.

The wind has prevented the Edgar from getting to Long Reach tho' ready in all respects to fall down, so that she must remain where she is till the next Spring tide.

Enclosure.

14th August 1779.

Copy of an Order to Admiral Sir Charles Hardy.

By the Commissioners for executing the Office of Lord High Admiral of Great Britain and Ireland etc.

Whereas there is now reason to believe, from the long delay of the Appearance of the combined Fleets of France and Spain in these Seas, as well as from the Intelligence which has been received of some of the French Ships having been obliged to put into Corunna by Sickness, and others by being disabled in the late Gales of Wind, that they may not venture to meet His Majesty's Fleet under your command if they can possibly avoid it; You are, therefore, in pursuance of His Majesty's pleasure signified to us by Lord Viscount Weymouth one of His Principal Secretaries of State, hereby required and directed (notwithstanding any former orders) in case you shall have reason to think from any Intelligence you have received, or may receive, that the Enemy have any intention of avoiding an Engagement by returning to Brest; not to confine yourself to any Station

which will hinder you from doing your utmost to give the Enemy Battle and prevent them going into Port. Given under our hands the 14th August 1779.

SANDWICH.
LISBURNE.
R. MAN.

By Command of their Lordships

PH. STEPHENS.

N.B. The above Order was sent by Express the same night (in Duplicate) to Plymouth and Falmouth, to be forwarded by the first conveyance from those places.

No. 2742—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

ADMIRALTY,
August 17*th* 1779,
7 *o'clock* A.M.

Lord Sandwich has the honour to inform your Majesty that last night after twelve o'clock, Sir Jacob Wheat first Lieutenant of the Marlborough came to him at Blackheath with the enclosed letter from Captain Penny. Lord Sandwich immediately sent a Messenger to this office with directions to send to Ld. North, Ld. Weymouth, and Ld. Amherst to give them notice that the enemy's fleet had been seen in the Chops of the Channel, and desiring them to come to town immediately. An express has been allso sent to the Admirals at Portsmouth and in the Downs; Captain Penny had apprized Ld. Shuldham by letter of what had passed.

Sir Jacob Wheat has very little to add to the contents of Captain Penny's letter, except that he is allmost certain that the Ship that came nearest them was Spanish; the Marlborough outsailed everything, but the Isis goes so ill that she will be in great danger if she again falls in with the enemy; she had born away a considerable time before the Marlborough or might now have been taken.

Your Majesty will observe that when the enemies fleet were last seen they were standing to the S.E. pointing towards Ushant.

Sir Jacob Wheat is positive that the fleet consisted of 63 sail and that they had no transports with them.

Lord Sandwich did not think your Majesty would chuse to

be troubled with the attendance of Sir Jacob Wheat, but if your Majesty would see him, he is ready to set out at a moments notice.

Enclosed are the letters that were recieved yesterday from Sir Charles Hardy, with the state and condition of his fleet.

No. 2743—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

ADMIRALTY,
August 20th 1779.

Lord Sandwich is fearfull that the Ardent is taken, notwithstanding that Mr. Ourry in his letter to Captain Lecras had said that she was arrived safe in Plymouth Sound. Lord Sandwich encloses Mr. Ourry's letter concerning the Ardent, and allso a paper of intelligence from Mr. Robinson.

Captain Stirling who is just come from the Navy office, says that there are letters there by express from Mr. Ourry, who mentions the taking of the Ardent as a certainty after a very smart action; that she was first attacked by two frigates of 40 guns, who were afterwards supported by five ships of the Line.

No. 2744—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

ADMIRALTY,
August 20th 1779,
half past 4 P.M.

Lord Sandwich has the honour to send to your Majesty the letter just received by express from Ld. Shuldham, it is remarkable that he says nothing about the Ardent, or that any firing had been seen or heard.

No. 2745—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

ADMIRALTY,
August 21st 1779,
half past three P.M.

Lord Sandwich has the honour to send to your Majesty all the intelligence recieved at this hour.

Mr. Robinson brought a letter to Ld. North while Lord S. was there, that mentions as a certainty that the Ardent had fought and crippled the two frigates that attacked her and had outsailed the Line of battleships and got safe thro' the enemy's fleet. There is another account in the city that says she arrived on Thursday evening much shattered in Plymouth Sound: upon the whole, the accounts concerning the Ardent are so contradictory that it is difficult to know what to make of them.

Since writing the above, Ld. Sandwich has recieved from Mr. Robinson the letter to which he has referred, and cannot help observing that one part of the intelligence is indisputably false, namely, the Ardent having come into Plymouth with a convoy; whereas she has not been in that Port.

No. 2746—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

ADMIRALTY,
August 22*nd* 1779,
a quarter past 12 *o'clock.*

Lord Sandwich has the honour to send your Majesty the letters just recieved by express from Plymouth.

Lord Sandwich is sorry to observe that in his opinion Commissioner Ourry's head is turned, he proposes to answer his letter and to encourage him not to despond so much; as to his desire of having a commission as Colonell, he means to tell him that he thinks that unnecessary, as he has that rank allready as a Captain in the Navy. After all, it is much to be wished that a sensible Commissioner was to go down to be at Mr. Ourry's elbow, but Ld. Sandwich does not at present see where that person is to be found.

No. 2747—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

ADMIRALTY,
August 23*rd* 1779.

Lord Sandwich has the honour to send to your Majesty the copy of a letter which went last night to Commissioner Ourry; he allso sends one he has recieved from the Comptroller in answer to his desire that Mr. Le Cras might go to Plymouth; he has

however seen him this morning, and it is now agreed that he shall set out to-morrow and stay there two days ; Lord Sandwich has therefore written a second letter to Mr. Ourry, a copy of which allso comes herewith, as allso one to Lord Shuldham upon the same subject.

half past seven P.M.

Since the above has been written an express has been recieved from Ld. Shuldham whose letter with one from Mr. Ourry containing nothing important are enclosed. Captain Brisbane most probably sailed last night to take advantage of the Easterly wind and scour the opposite coast of France with a squadron of frigates (all copper bottomed) as mentioned in the list annexed, with orders to return as soon as the wind comes to the Westward.

Captain Brisbane sailed from the *Downs*.

Captain Le Cras has been more alert than any other person would have been, and is allready on his way to Plymouth.

No. 2748—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

ADMIRALTY,
August 24th 1779,
6 *o'clock* P.M.

Your Majesty may be assured that every express from Plymouth, or anything else that deserves your attention is sent the moment it comes to hand : it came later than usual yesterday, from Plymouth.

No. 2749—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 277.

Lord North must see that all Bancroft's News has for a considerable time been calculated to intimidate, therefore no great reliance can be placed on what comes from that Quarter ; that concerning Prevost is certainly without foundation the rest may be greatly exagerated.

KEW,
August 25th 1779,
m/50 *pt.* 8 P.M.

No. 2750—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

ADMIRALTY,
August 26th 1779.

Captain Gell of the Thetis is now with Ld. Sandwich, and brings some interesting particulars about Sir Charles Hardy's fleet which your Majesty will find in the enclosed paper; he saw nothing of the combined fleets.

No. 2751—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

ADMIRALTY,
August 27th 1779.

As an express is just arrived from Plymouth with some of the letters which your Majesty will find enclosed, probably nothing else will come from Ld. Shuldham this day.

The box contains everything else that is come to this office, that in any degree deserves your Majesty's attention.

Lord Powis has given his full consent that we may use Ludlow Castle for the reception of the Prisoners.

No. 2752—*Lord Amherst to the King.*

I humbly beg leave to lay before Your Majesty two letters I have this moment received from Sir David Lindsay, and most humbly to offer my opinion that Sir David Lindsay cannot be permitted to remain with the Command, I should also think it may be better that he does not remain there; a change is disagreeable, but it cannot be avoided; and I think, if it meets with your Majesty's Approbation, Lt. General Haviland might be immediately ordered to take the Command at Plymouth, and it may not be amiss to employ Sir William Draper with him or at Portsmouth, as occasions may require, Sir David Lindsay to take the Command in the West.

I will immediately see Lord North and desire to meet Your

Majesty's confidential Servants by the time I can receive Your Majesty's Commands. AMHERST.

9 *o'clock Saturday* A.M.,
28*th August* [1779].

Endorsed by the King. Answer approved of sending Lt.-G. Haviland to take 9th command, but proposing Sir W. Draper to serve under him and to go instantly to supersede Sir D. Lindsay.

Kew, Aug. 28th $\frac{m}{36}$ *pt* 10. A.M.

No. 2753—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of inclosing for his Majesty's perusal a letter of intelligence from Amsterdam, and a note that Mr. Home put into Mr. Robinson's hands.

Lord North is of opinion from the letter received yesterday from Capt. Garnier of the Southampton, that it is possible for Sir Charles Hardy to enter the Channell and receive a reinforcement before he engages the Combined fleets, and has written to Lord Sandwich on the subject though he has no doubt but what every necessary order has been given to get forward and send to Plymouth all possible reinforcements as well as every necessary supply.

Lord North was very sorry to learn on Saturday last the language that Sir David Lindsay had imprudently held concerning the state of Plymouth, and saw the absolute necessity of removing him from that command, although he believes that the want of artillery men there is very great, as well of other troops which he took the liberty of mentioning to Lord Amherst, who seems to Lord North to have done very well in ordering Sir Wm. Draper, Mr. Mawhood and Mr. Picton to serve at Plymouth; Lt. Col. Campbell wishes to serve without pay with the irregulars, and the new-arm'd peasants, but Lord Amherst objects to it because he belongs to the army in America: Lord North does not pretend to controvert the propriety of Ld. Amherst's rule, but wishes as a public man, that Mr. Campbell's talents, as they can not in this instant be employ'd in America, might be made as useful as possible in Great Britain. Lord North can not but express his

concern that no command has been found out for Sir Guy Carleton, who is so much of a soldier, and so little of a politician, such a resolute, honest man, and such a faithful and dutiful subject, that he owns he wishes to see him intrusted with a part of our defence in this critical moment.

Bushy Park,
August 30*th* 1779.

No. 2754—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 278.

Kew,
August 30*th* 1779,
m/46 *pt.* 4 P.M.

The intelligence from Amsterdam requires no other notice than an acknowledgement of having received it; Mr. Home's is a fresh application for what was mentioned some months ago; I certainly do not mean to make any promise therefore shall not return any Answer.

I last Week proposed to Ld. Sandwich the measure now wished by Ld. North of assembling the Ships that are ready at Portsmouth at Plymouth, he seemed to hesitate but if properly pressed will certainly comply.

The moment Ld. Amherst communicated the letters he had received from Sir D. Lindsay, I instantly ordered him to send Sir W. Draper and had on friday approved of the other Gentleman I do not see how Lt. Col. Campbell could be as yet employed he being on another Service; Sir Guy Carleton dislikes Ld. Amherst so much that it is not very easy to employ him.

No. 2755—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

Admiralty,
August 30*th* 1779,
half past seven P.M.

Lord Sandwich has the honour to send to your Majesty a draught of the Boom intended to be laid across Plymouth harbour, together with the express just recieved from Plymouth.

No. 2756—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 278.

KEW. *Sep^t* 1. 1779.
$\frac{m}{58}$ *P^t* 6 P.M.

LORD NORTH—It seems right I should apprize You, that I have directed Lord Amherst to lay before the Cabinet Meeting tomorrow the letter he has received from L^d Pelham containing an account of the very factious (at Least) conduct of the D. of Richmond at the Meeting he had as Lord Lieutenant Summoned, when he expressly delivered His disapprobation of the Proclamation a resolution not to aid or give any direction for Driving the Cattle if this conduct is not chastised it is not to be supposed that Magistrates in any County will act, in Sussex certainly none ; I do not see after so public and flagrant an instance of disobedience of Orders how it is possible for any to object to his being removed indeed I think it a measure not only right in it self but that at this hour it would be highly dangerous to continue him Lord Lieutenant of Sussex, the Proposal he makes of raising 24 Companies will enable him to bring forward his own Creatures, he ought therefore to be first displaced and L^d Pelham will find the proper persons to be brought forward on this occasion. I can never admit the idea that this expulsion is wrong least it should make other Opposition Lords Resign their Lieutenancies ; if this could actuate them, to Such a Step the Sooner that Office of Dignity is in more friendly hands in every County the better.

No. 2757—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

ADMIRALTY *Sept. 2nd* 1779.

Lord Sandwich has the honour to send to Your Majesty the letters just recieved by Lieutenant Bowen who was sent out in a Cutter to find Sir Charles Hardy.

M^r Bowen reports that the fleet is in very good spirits ; and only a few ships sickly, as your Majesty will see by the sick list in the enclosed state & condition of the fleet ; their chief want is beer and water, the former of which it is to be feared will be difficult to be supplied immediately.

Mr Bowen says that His Royal Highness Prince William is in perfect health.

Sir Charles Hardy will now be sure of being joined by all the reinforcements, and every care will be taken to supply his wants without a moments loss of time.

Mr Bowen says that nothing could exceed the ardour & alacrity of the whole fleet when they thought the enemy was in sight.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2758—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

The enclosed letter came by express in the night, and a Messenger was sent off at 5 o'clock to Sir Thomas Pye, to direct him to comply with Sir Charles Hardy's request.

Admiralty *Sept.* 3*rd* 1779
half past 8 a.m.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2759—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

Admiralty *Sept* 4*th* 1779.

Lord Sandwich has the honour to send to your Majesty the enclosed dispatches, and tho' there is very little real difference between the fleets anchoring at St Helens or Spithead with regard to their getting to Sea, and that the necessaries will be put on board them much more conveniently & expeditiously at the latter place, yet Lord Sandwich cannot help wishing they had anchored at St Helens. Ld Sandwich saw Sir Hugh Palliser last night, who came to him to express his fears least our fleet should be attacked at anchor, which, as a Sea Officer, he says he is certain would be the most disadvantageous mode on our side in which the battle could be fought, & indeed the reasons he gives for that opinion are very cogent.

If your Majesty thinks, that Ld Sandwich's going to Portsmouth would be of more use to your Service than remaining in town, he will set out the moment he recieves your commands to that purpose, if Lord Sandwich goes there he can enforce any

ideas your Majesty may have with regard to the conduct you wish may be observed, without committing your Government by official correspondence at so critical a time ; and at all events he will be able to collect the opinions of the principal people in the fleet, and to report to your Majesty an exact state of men & things.

This is what is to be said on one side of this question, on the other side Lord Sandwich cannot but feel that he is of some use here, and possibly at the meetings of your Majesty's servants.

Upon this state of the case your Majesty will please to signify your commands which shall be immediately obeyed, as L^d^ Sandwich will have his post chaise ready to set out the moment he recieves an answer to this letter, but he hopes that if he is to go to Portsmouth he may be allowed to attend on your Majesty either at Kew or at Windsor, neither of which places are much out of the road to Portsmouth, that he may collect your Majesty's sentiments, and express his own, more fully than it is possible to do by letter.

No. 2760—*The King to Lord Sandwich.*

KEW *Sept. 4th* 1779.

LORD SANDWICH—Our fine Fleet being returned to Spithead for refreshments I do not object to, provided that is effected with the greatest expedition ; but the times will not permit its waiting for every little convenience ; therefore I trust on Your not losing one moment in proceeding with the utmost dispatch to Portsmouth, and on your seeing that no time is lost in putting on board the several Ships what may be absolutely necessary for enabling Sir Charles Hardy to go and meet the combined Fleets of France and Spain now in the Channel ; I am certain He could never have wished to take so glorious a command without feeling that ardour which ought to inspire every Englishman at this hour ; therefore I am certain He will be eager to meet these faithless People. The Spirit of the Fleet gives me the fullest confidence that with the blessing of the Allmighty France will now severely feel that chastisement which so infamous a conduct deserves.

Draft and fair copy in the King's handwriting.

No. 2761—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 279.

Lord North—The Fleet is at Spithead which will undoubtedly enable the Admiral to get Provisions Water etc much sooner that if he remained off S^{t} Helens ; but as I think it absolutely necessary the Fleet should be [despatched] so quickly as to meet the Enemy on the first Opportunity I have sent possitive directions to Lord Sandwich to proceed without the loss of an hour himself to Portsmouth to see every exertion is made and to acquaint the Admiral that I expect the Enemy is not permitted to quit the Channel without feeling that chastisement which so base a conduct deserves.

Kew *Sep^{t} 4th* 1779.

$\frac{m}{5}$ *p^{t}* 11. A.M.

No. 2762—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North had the honour of receiving his Majesty's commands yesterday while Lord Sandwich was with him, & was very glad to see that Lord Sandwich had determined to go to Portsmouth. His journey there last year had the best consequences & Lord North doubts not but his present journey is more necessary & will be more important than the other.

Lord North hopes that Sir Charles Hardy's fleet may receive the necessary supplies the sooner by his having come to Spithead, but the measure was a very delicate one, not only from the danger of clamour, (which is the least consideration) but from the possibility of being detained there a long time by contrary winds, &, perhaps, of being blocked up by the enemy's fleet. Lord North hopes that Sir Cha^{s} will not think it necessary to lay in a Stock of refreshments as if he were going a long voyage, as the point now in issue will probably be decided in a fortnight or three weeks at the farthest, as far as the fleets are concern'd. If this measure of coming to S^{t} Helens is really what the Admiral undoubtedly thinks it, a measure of dispatch, the Commander deserves to be praised for despising the hasty judgement of the people, & Lord North is glad to hear that the Comptroller of the

Navy approves of what has been done. There are other very good naval opinions, who differ, Lord North owns that he shall be glad to see Sir Charles Hardy once more clear of Spithead, & in a situation to avail himself of any favourable opportunity of giving battle to the enemy; the French Admiral will hardly venture upon any serious attack either of Great Britain or Ireland, while he is in expectation of an engagement. Lord North received the enclosed papers a few days ago, but in the hurry of more pressing concerns he forgot to send them to his Majesty.

B^r^ Park. *Sep^t^* 5. 1779.

No. 2763—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

Portsmouth *Sept. 5th.* 1779.

Lord Sandwich has the honour to acquaint your Majesty that he arrived at this place this morning at half past nine o'clock; by sending on his Messenger in the night he apprized L^d^ Mulgrave that he was coming, and he found him at the Commissioners soon after his arrival. Lord Mulgraves opinion is that the fleet had better not have come to Spithead, for that if the Enemy were enterprizing and had a fair wind they might take possession of St. Helens; he however expresses himself very favourably with regard to Sir Charles Hardy's general conduct, & thinks it is absolutely necessary that he should be supported against the remains of Admiral Keppell's party the chief of which are Jervis, Macbride, & perhaps Sir John Ross tho' the latter is not violent: upon the whole he thinks the temper of the fleet as good as can be expected, but for many reasons wishes them at Sea with as little delay as may be.

Lord Sandwich lost no time in going to Spithead on board the Victory where he had a long conversation with Sir Charles Hardy, he pointed out to Sir Charles how much it was to be wished that the fleet had been at S^t^ Helens rather than at Spithead, and that at all events it was advisable that they should not lose one unnecessary moment in harbour: Sir Charles expressed the utmost eagerness to get again to Sea, and mentioned his coming to Spithead merely as a measure of dispatch. L^d^ Sandwich explained to him many public & private reasons why he should not continue here, and is certain that he left him in the deter-

mination to get to Sea without delay, as he promised him to make a Signal this night to all ships to give an account of what supplies they had recieved, and to send them as fast as they were ready to S^{t} Helens without waiting for the rest.

L^{d} Sandwich communicated to him the letter your Majesty had done him the honour to write to him, which seemed to have every proper effect.

Your Majesty will observe that the coming into Port was absolutely necessary as some of the ships (particularly those that had been out with Admiral Darby, & sailed again soon after his return without recruiting their stock) had not above a week's water on board: and they had in general in the fleet been obliged to have recourse to their ground tier, which is seldom done but in case of real necessity.

There never was so healthy a fleet, only three or four ships sickly, and as Captain Kempenfelt assured me these were not of any distempers occasioned by Service at Sea but by infection brought on board by pressed men & people from Jails that had brought infection with them the whole number sent sick on shore is 824., many of the Ships have not sent a single man.

Lord Sandwich questioned Captain Kempenfelt about S^{t} Helens, his answer was that they could get as many things on board in one day at Spithead as in five at S^{t} Helens, and that he did not see that if an enemy was to anchor at S^{t} Helens that they could not go out in line of battle from Spithead to attack them.

Lord Sandwich proposes to go on board the Victory again to morrow morning, & will not leave this place till he sees the fleet in motion which he hopes & believes may be on Thursday next, if weather permits.

From the Victory Lord Sandwich went on board the Prince George, where he had an honour that certainly none of his predecessors ever had, of having his boat ordered to be manned when he was going away, by the most amiable & promising Midshipman [Prince William] that ever yet was at Sea.

Admiral Digby is rather uneasy at being at Spithead; upon being questioned about the good humour among the Officers in the fleet, he says it goes on very tolerably, and there is no appearance of disunion that deserves the least attention.

Lord Sandwich has since seen S^{r} John Ross, Captains

Bickerton, Walsingham, Johnstone, Raynor & many others ; and the general voice is that they wish to meet the enemy, and that they are not to be beaten in a fleet so manned, and equipped in every respect.

There is no reason to doubt but that the Arrogant will be ready to go out of the harbour the day after to morrow, & to sail with the fleet ; the Blenheim & Bienfaisant are both arrived here safe.

As to the want of beer no one complains of it, Sir Charles Hardy says he knows it is impossible to brew beer that will keep in the summer months, & that nine parts in ten of what we sent out to him was obliged to be condemned ; wine & spirits will do as well, and they have here in store enough for 30,000 men for three months. Sir Charles, for the greater dispatch proposes only to take out two months instead of four of provisions & water, which latter is the usual allowance for channel service.

Since writing thus far General Monckton is come in to L^{d} Sandwich & informs him that the Signals are made on the Isle of Wight for the appearance of an enemys fleet ; it may possibly be only a false alarm, but L^{d} Sandwich has sent Sir Richard Bickerton off to Sir Charles Hardy with this account, and your Majesty may depend upon hearing immediate notice, if anything real is the consequence of this alarm : Sir Thomas Pye seems to think that the fleet is the Wolf Sloop with her convoy that was hourly expected from Plymouth ; and as the Amphitrite & a Cutter that were stationed to cruize at the back of the Isle of Wight to look out for the enemy are not come in, it is a confirmation of its being a false alarm. Lord Sandwich encloses a paper delivered to him by Commissioner Kirk, giving an account of the measures that have been taken for Victualling the fleet.

If your Majesty chuses to be troubled with this sort of detail while L^{d} S: remains at Portsmouth, he will continue to send every observation he makes, and all the intelligence he procures.

Lord Sandwich has recieved a paper from L^{d} Mulgrave which he encloses containing some ideas about fortifying Torbay and some other places in the West, but particularly Torbay, which indeed seems a matter of much importance, and what L^{d} Sandwich some time ago mentioned to L^{d} Amherst as deserving his attention.

Lord Mulgrave speaks very highly of Admiral Darby, & says he is quite adored in the fleet.

Enclosure.

Lord Mulgrave's Memorandum as to the Defence of Torbay.

[? *September*, 1779.]

No time should be lost in erecting a Battery of twenty four Pounders & another of Mortars on the Berry Head for the Defence of Torbay as those Batterys would make it dangerous for a Fleet to attempt getting into Torbay with a Westerly wind which is the Time the French would be most likely to attempt it & that the Use of that Road would be of the greatest Importance to them.

A Respectable Body of Troops (perhaps two thousand) should be encamped in the Most Advantageous Situation between the Berry Head & the River Dart to prevent the French taking possession of Torbay & Dartmouth Harbour without some such precaution should the Event of the Action not be very decisive on our Side they might easily in the present defenceless Situation of that Port get footing there & by erecting the Battery which we had neglected secure their Fleet in a very good Road free from Insult or at least under Circumstances that would make the Attack of them very disadvantageous.

From the nature of the Country should they make a Lodgement there with a Body of Troops they might secure the Possession of Torbay & Dartmouth Harbour for the Winter & have the best part of Devonshire open to their attacks— Dartmouth Harbour would be of infinite Consequence for their Frigates. Dartmouth Castle should immediately be put in a Proper State of Defence by a Detachment of Artillery as well as troops Torbay & Dartmouth Effectually secured there is no Shelter on our Coast for the Enemy's disabled Ships with a Westerly Wind after an Action in the Channell.

Batterys should be erected (particularly one or two Mortar Batterys) on Portland & about Week near Weymouth to prevent the Enemy from availing themselves of Portland Road in Case of a Gale of Wind but no great Force will be necessary as a Descent is not to be apprehended there or that they should attempt to Make a Permanent Lodgement; the Advantage however which they might derive from that Road in its present

undefended State should not be neglected as it may be so easily provided against.

Mevagisey Bay in Cornwall is a Place where part of their Fleet might perhaps find Shelter but there is not Room for the Whole, this Might I imagine be secured by a Battery or two but of this I only judge by the Draught never having been there.

These places being secured the whole south Coast would be in a Situation effectually to preclude the Shattered part of an Enemys Fleet from that Shelter which would enable them in a very Short time to put their Ships in some state of safety by repairing their Damages more conveniently & effectually than can be done at Sea.

[*Unsigned.*]

No. 2764—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 280.

Windsor Castle *Sept. 5th* 1779.

From a wish that Lord North should be informed of the subsequent steps I have taken since I wrote to him yesterday, I send a copy of the letter I thought it right to put into Lord Sandwich's hands when he left me to proceed to Portsmouth; He saw it was arming him in the strongest manner, he therefore thanked me for it, and had my consent to make such use of it as he might think advisable to Sir Charles Hardy he will certainly communicate it at the first interview; I owne the unexpected steps of the Admirals bravely venturing to come to Spithead and take the necessary refreshments without applying for leave, shews me that he is a man of real resolution and not affraid of the murmurs that the Step may occasion, consequently that when prepared to follow the Enemy that he will manfully Seek it, none of the popular names would have dared to take such a part; but I am not surprized for the hand of Providence seems to be taking a part in our favour I therefore only admire the Dictates and do not presume to take any other line till it is clearer pointed out.

No. 2765—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

PORTSMOUTH *Sept*: 6*th* 1779.

Lord Sandwich has the honour to inform your Majesty that he attended this morning at the Victualling office, and hopes he was of some use in quickening their operations, upon which alone the sailing of the fleet depends. Water is allmost the only article that can occasion any delay, for they have wine & spirits in plenty, and it is very fortunate that (contrary to the language of last year) the fleet in general are indifferent whither they have any beer for this cruize as they are sensible they cannot have it good at this time of the year.

The Arrogant went out of the harbour this afternoon.

There are several Politicians now here of different connections in order to make their observations & pick up intelligence ; the principal of those that have come within L^d^ Sandwich's notice, are the Duke of Bolton, Mr. Sawbridge, Mr. Temple Lutterell, & Mr. Keene.

It is to be feared that Admiral Graves's appointment may make some uneasiness among the flag officers ; L^d^ Sandwich had a good deal of conversation this morning with Sir Charles Hardy upon this subject, and found him, contrary to expectation, strong in his idea that the fleet should not consist of more than three divisions ; L^d^ Sandwich mentioned his opinion that so large a fleet should be divided into five ; and indeed if this measure is not adopted it would be attended with very disagreeable consequences, as Admiral Digby would be left without the Command of a Division which would undoubtedly make him uneasy and prejudice the service : nothing however is yet concluded in this business ; & L^d^ Mulgrave is to go early to morrow on board the Victory & to talk the matter closely with both Sir Charles & Captain Kempenfelt, after which L^d^ Sandwich will see them & settle it finally as well as he can ; having it strong in his determination not to leave Digby without a Division.

The alarm of last night of an Enemy's fleet at the back of the Isle of Wight, which was repeated again this morning from the same quarter, proved to be the Wasp Sloop with a convoy of Victuallers which came thro' the Needles this morning to Spithead at about eleven o'clock.

Lord Sandwich is fearfull of fixing any day for the sailing of the fleet, but his unwearied endeavours are exerted in every quarter to hasten their departure; he hopes to morrow to be able to speak with a little more precision.

The Lieutenant who commands the Nimble Cutter just arrived from the Downs, has reported to L^{d} Sandwich that in his way hither he spoke with a Dutch Indiaman, who told him that on Thursday last he passed thro' the combined fleets, making in all 108 sail who were then off the Lizard, and that he was boarded by one of Mons: D'Orvilliers Lieutenants.

No. 2766—*Lord Amherst to the King.*

I beg leave most humbly to lay before Your Majesty a Letter I have received from Sir William Draper and two Letters which I have received from Lt General Monckton with my Answers thereto, as also my Answer to Lt General Haviland. The supposed Approach of the combined Fleets to the Isle of Wight, at the time of the date of Lt General Monckton's, in my humble opinion was very unlikely. AMHERST.

6th Sept. 3 *O'Clock* P.M. [1779].

No. 2767—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

PORTSMOUTH *Sept*: *7th* 1779.

Lord Sandwich has the satisfaction to inform your Majesty that he believes everything will be very properly settled about the five divisions of the fleet; L^{d} Mulgrave went off early this morning on board the Victory by Lord Sandwich's desire to talk thoroughly to Captain Kempenfelt & Sir Charles Hardy, and it was intended that Ld S: should see Sir Charles after L^{d} Mulgrave had made his report of what passed: Lord Mulgrave accordingly did his business very effectually, & brought word to Lord S: that he had found Kempenfelt very communicative & well disposed, and that he readily undertook to convince Sir Charles of

the propriety of five divisions, in which L^d^ Mulgrave on conversing with Sir Charles found he had succeeded.

Lord Sandwich attempted to get to Spithead afterwards, but the wind blowing so very hard & the tide coming in, he was obliged to put back ; but will see Sir Charles to morrow morning, & has no doubt but that (from L^d^ Mulgraves report) everything will be arranged without any further difficulty.

Admiral Graves hoisted his flag this morning on board the Formidable.

Lord Sandwich has seen Captain Laforey, who is made extremely happy by your Majesty's gracious nomination of him to be Commissioner at Antigua ; he will resign his ship immediately, and this resignation will help very much in the arrangement for finding a proper ship for Admiral Graves.

Lord Sandwich has attended again this morning at the Victualling office to see that everything went on right about sending off the water & provisions, & he believes he may venture to assure your Majesty that all that business is in its proper train, and that his farther interposition about it is unnecessary. it is to be hoped that everything will be on board on Thursday, and Sir Charles Hardy has promised that when ten or twelve of his Ships are compleated, they shall drop down to St. Helens, & so in succession till they are all there.

Lord Sandwich has had a long and very close conversation with Captain Johnstone, who is violent against the idea of either Lord Howe or Admiral Keppells commanding the fleet. Mr. Keene has been fishing everywhere for information whither the Admiral is not unequal to the Command of the fleet, & whither L^d^ Howe would not be well recieved ; he has even tried L^d^ Mulgrave upon this subject, & has been very properly answered. Lord Sandwich believes he may venture to assure your Majesty, that he shall leave everything here in perfect good humour, as much as it can be, while the remains of Admiral Keppells party exists, among Whom it is to be feared that Sir John Ross and Captain Walsingham are too much connected, tho' they both strongly disavow it in words, but not in actions.

Lord Sandwich proposes to come away to morrow evening being assured that his further attendance here can do no service

to your Majesty's affairs, but he flatters himself that his journey to Portsmouth has not been useless.

Your Majesty will find enclosed the present state of the Victualling of the fleet.

No. 2768—*Lord North to the King.*

[? 8 *September*, 1779.]

Lord North has the honour of informing his Majesty that he has learnt from M^r^ Keene that three Hundred of the artificers & Workmen employ'd by the Board of Works have offer'd themselves to be associated & trained upon the same footing as the Westminster & Middlesex Corps. to be employ'd in keeping the Peace of this City & County ; Their Officers to be the Master-Artificers. Although this Corps promises to be full as useful as the Twenty four Middlesex Companies, M^r^ Keene does not think it proper to take any step towards forming it till he is apprized of your Majesty's pleasure, & has desired L^d^ North to mention the business to his Majesty : Lord North has heard likewise that M^r^ Sheridan & M^r^ Harris have it under their consideration to form a company on the same plan out of the tradesmen & workmen dependant upon the theatres. There is to be a meeting tomorrow of the American Refugees, to determine upon offering their services in a Corps to continue on foot during the present exigency. M^r^ Patterson call'd yesterday upon Lord North, & inform'd him that he believed their number were about 300, 200 of which are gentlemen. Lord North believes that they mean to take a great part of the expence upon themselves, but the plan is to be digested & settled tomorrow & Lord North supposes that the offer of their services will be made immediately after.

Lord North has, in obedience to his Majesty's commands (which he received some time ago,) sent to the Secretary of State's office to prepare an appointment for M^r^ Arnold to a Canonry of Windsor in the room of D^r^ North.

Wednesday morn^g^.

No. 2769—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

ADMIRALTY *Sept*: 9th 1779.
10 *o'clock* P.M.

Lord Sandwich has the honour to send to your Majesty the dispatches recieved this night by Admiral Barrington & Captain Sawyer.

Admiral Barrington seems to be in perfect good humour, nor is there the least appearance of his being upon ill terms with Admiral Byron. Mr Stephens who had seen him before he was with L^{d} Sandwich, told him of a report that had been propagated of his not having been properly supported by Mr Byron; he answered that that report was an infamous falsehood, for that Mr Byron had done everything that was practicable to give him assistance, and to support the credit of the British flag.

Lord Sandwich had no opportunity of questioning Mr Barrington closely as Captain Sawyer was present, but he is to be with L^{d} S: tomorrow morning at eleven o'clock, & will afterwards attend your Majesty's Levee, and L^{d} Sandwich gave him hopes that he would afterwards be honoured with an audience to report to your Majesty the State of affairs in the West India Islands.

Admiral Barrington recieved a slight flesh wound of no sort of consequence, & is in perfect health.

No. 2770—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North having fully reflected on the difficulty of introducing to Lord George Germain a proposal, to which he has already declared his dislike, & upon the best way of doing it. He thinks that the idea his Majesty did him the honour to suggest of doing it by letter is preferable to the other, & has, accordingly, sketch'd out a letter which he has the honour of submitting to his Majesty for his consideration. This letter will certainly produce an epistolary correspondence, besides, several interviews before the business is accomplished but he hopes that Lord George will see that a strong administration can not be gain'd without some notice is taken of Lord Carlisle.

Thursday Sept. 9 [1779].

No. 2771—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 282.

S^{T} James's *Sep^{t}* 10th 1779.
$\frac{m}{49}$ *p^{t} one* P.M.

I am glad to find by the Note just received from Lord North that He has addopted the mode I thought best of opening the business of the Board of Trade to Lord George Germain; but must desire he will alter the first paragraph which looks too favourable; I certainly have no intention to confer a Peerage on Lord George, and therefore cannot wish that Lord North should be holding forth what will not be realized, if Lord North simplifies that Article to my wishing Lord Geo. would continue in Office and entirely omit the other idea, and if He should speak on the Subject always contend that I have ever waved entering on the Subject. I return the Warrants wish [*sic*] I have signed, and also one unsigned concerning M^{r} Serle, which I suppose is drawn up by mistake a pension during pleasure in lieu of a Place on the same tenure might be very just.

No. 2772—*Mr. Jenkinson to the King.*

Addiscombe Place,
Sep^{r} 11th 1779.

I have just received a Letter from Lord Gower, by which I find He thinks it necessary to be in Town the beginning of next Week; I thought it right to apprize your Majesty of this & to send You his Letter, though there is nothing particular in it, that your Majesty may judge thereby of the Disposition, in which He returns to London.

From Your Majesty's Dutyfull Subject C. Jenkinson.

No. 2773—*The King to Lord Sandwich.*

Windsor Castle *Sep^{t}* 13th 1779.

Lord Sandwich has I suppose pretty near heard the same account of the West India Islands from V. Adm. Barrington as

he made to me on friday, therefore cannot be surprised it did not edify me, and I am sorry to add that he has not been cautious in concealing his Sentiments on that subject, so that it is now well known that He is of opinion that every one of the Possessions in that material part of the World if attacked by either France or Spain must inevitably fall. Though I think him a very gallant Officer, I cannot say this is a mark of much Public Virtue, which ought to prevent dispondency and to stimulate when difficulties arise an encrease of allacrity and activity as the sole means of producing a better posture of Affairs No one is more convinced than myself of the unexpected magnitude of the Naval force now collected by the United House of Bourbon, but dejection is not the means of lessening it.

While that strength is kept entire at Brest or parades in the Channel it will not be wise to be making great detachments from the Squadron under the Command of Sir Charles Hardy, which must [*illegible*] open beyond Scilly, the Blenheim, Arrogant, and S^{t} Albans which are in too weak situations to weather a Storm, but when the Spaniards return home a Squadron of Sufficient force to Secure the taking the Ships that blockade Gibraltar and to relieve that Popular Fortress must be without the loss of an hour detached.

The fleet in the West Indies is quite useless unless at least Seven Ships are relieved and Men sent out Sufficient to compleat those that remain ; our Islands must be defended even at the risk of an invasion of this Island, if we lose our Sugar Islands it will be impossible to raise Money to continue the War and then no Peace can be obtained but such a one as He that gave one to Europe in 1763 never can subscribe to.

We must be ruined if every idea of Offensive War is to lye dormant untill this Island is thought in a situation to defy attacks, if there is the smallest spark of resolution in the Country it must defend itself at home though not a Ship remained for its defence.

If Ministers will take a firm decided part and risk something to Save the Empire I am ready to be the foremost on the Occasion, as my Stake is the deepest ; but if nothing but measures of caution are pursued and further Sacrifices are made from a Want of boldness which alone can preserve a state when hard pressed I shall certainly not think myself obliged after a conduct shall have

been held so contrary to my opinion, to screen them from the Violence of an enraged Nation.

No. 2774—*The King to Lord Sandwich.*

WINDSOR CASTLE *Sept.* 13th 1779.

Having reflected very seriously on the various matters stated by Vice Admiral Barrington on friday, and considered very cooly on our present situation I think it right to send the result to Lord Sandwich that he may see what force he can provide for Several very pressing Services ;

No one can deny that the House of Bourbon have brought their united Navy to a degree of strength that no Englishman can see with ease, complaining is foolish as it does not effect any remedy, therefore we must see what are the necessary Services.

Whilst the United fleet remains at Brest or attempts any farther opperation it is impossible to weaken the Fleet under Sir Charles Hardy indeed beyond Scilly I do not think it advisable that the Blenheim, Arrogant or S^{t} Albans should venture to Sail.

Should the Spaniards return home a Squadron Sufficient to relieve Gibraltar and Secure the ships now blockading that Fortress must without the loss of an hour be sent, and proceed from thence to answer the Same Salutary purpose at Minorca ; after that Service is over a part of it must go to the West Indies where at least Seven Ships must return being unable to remain in those Seas. Troops must be sent sufficient to Secure Jamaica and Barbadoes the Capital Islands belonging to this Island ; we must run any risks rather than not Secure them if in addition to this it can be found practicable to undertake any attack on St. Domingue it would be highly desirable but of this the means must be shewn before any thing more can be with propriety said. I see the difficulties of the times but I know nothing advantageous can be obtained without some hazard ; I very clearly see that if we alone attend to home Security that every valuable possession will be lost before any effort is made to any other tendency but making the country secure against foreign Invasion ; this will sour the minds of the People as yet well disposed, but this disposition cannot long continue if every two or three months fresh losses are to be met with.

Perhaps no man in my dominion has a mind more ready to bear up against misfortunes, but then I must feel that all that could have been done has ; it is by bold and manly efforts Nations have been preserved not pursueing alone the line of home defence.

No. 2775—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

Blackheath *Sept*: 14th 1779.

Before Lord Sandwich had had the honour of recieving your Majesty's letter of yesterdays date, he had collected his thoughts and put them into writing in order to confer with L^{d} Amherst (in obedience to your Majesty's Commands) with whom he is, by appointment to have an interview this day : he will to morrow lay before your Majesty his full sentiments upon what passes between Lord Amherst & him, but in the mean time he has taken a copy of what he means to communicate to L^{d} Amherst which he sends herewith for your Majesty's immediate information.

As to the exertions that are to be made or the risque that is to be run in this time of danger, Lord Sandwich will never be found backward in taking his share of deciding them according to your Majesty's wishes ; but the rest of your Ministers should take their part allso, and the advice to be given to your Majesty from the Meetings should (as was usual before) be reduced into writing, and when a question is agitated there it ought to be decided one way or the other, and not put off as now most frequently happens, without any determination.

Lord Sandwich has, in the Situation of things thought it adviseable to write very seriously to Lord North to recommend firmness & decision to him, & to shew him how necessary it is that he should take the lead at our Councils, and act with the spirit that becomes the principal person who has the honour of your Majesty's confidence as a Minister ; whither this will be of any use L^{d} Sandwich cannot pretend to say, but he means it well, & knows of nothing else that it is in his power to do to add strength to your Majesty's Councils at this critical conjuncture.

Lord Sandwich has the honour to enclose the letter recieved yesterday from Sir Charles Hardy together with one from M^{r} Stephens, as allso Commissioner Kirks accounts of the progress

of Victualling the fleet; and to add that yesterday he had the pleasure of seeing the Alcide sail from Deptford to Long Reach.

No. 2776.

THOUGHTS UPON NAVAL MEASURES TO BE TAKEN SEPT: 14th 1779, WITH AN ACCOUNT OF THE THEN STATE OF THE ENGLISH FLEET.

[In Lord Sandwich's handwriting.]

To suggest the proper modes of distressing the enemy is not very difficult, but to find the means of carrying those measures into execution is not easy; it is to little purpose to form plans, without at the same time pointing out the manner of securing their success; therefore it will be necessary to lay down not only what ought, but what can be done, and to shew the utmost force that can be collected for any Naval exertions.

The parts that call for our most immediate attention, are Gibraltar and Minorca, the Leeward Islands & Jamaica; & these, particularly the latter, must fall unless immediately succoured.

As to the first, something Must without delay be attempted, at least to throw in a supply of Stores & provisions, but to this the obstacles are very great if not unsurmountable, and these obstacles will Multiply as soon as the Campaign is over and the Spaniards are returned to Cadiz to refit; for then whatever Ships are sent by us to Gibraltar, will not only be lost to our home defence, but if they remain in the Mediterranean will inevitably fall into the hands of the enemy who are between them & England with a superior force which we cannot contend with unless we give up all attention to the defence of this Island.

The only modes then that are left us, are either to endeavour to throw in supplies by single Ships which must take the advantage of favourable winds & dark nights to push thro the Straits,[1] or if a proper opportunity offers to send them under Convoy of two or three Ships of the Line, which it is to be supposed would be superior to the Spanish Squadron now blocking the Straits mouth: If it should appear that the whole Spanish fleet are in Brest or still remain joined to the French on

[1] Admiral Duff has pointed out the mode of performing this Service in his instructions to the Captain of the Thetis, a copy of which is hereto annexed, at the conclusion of this paper.

this side Cape Finisterre, this is the favourable moment for executing either or perhaps both of these measures ; and I should think that the Edgar, Alcide, & Ajax might be appropriated to this service : there are no other Ships in such degree of forwardness ; for I hold it as a fundamental point that nothing is to be taken from Sir Charles Hardys fleet till his cruize is ended, which it is supposed will last at least two months from the time of his sailing.

This measure however is attended with much danger, first from the chance of their being intercepted in their way by a superior force, and afterwards, if they escape, by the difficulty how the Ships are to return home ; for a very small detachment from Spain, will lock them up in the Mediterranean where they will be lost to the Service, and must abide the fate of the Fortress they are sent to relieve, & fall with it if it is taken : it therefore possibly might not be unadviseable for these Ships to leave Gibraltar with the first strong easterly wind that blows after their arrival and proceed directly to the West Indies to reinforce the Squadron in those Seas.

The three ships above-mentioned are particularly pointed out, because they will probably be ready by the time the supplies for Gibraltar are ready, that is to say in about a month from this date.

As to the Leeward Islands perhaps some measures may be taken to ensure & maintain a superiority there with less but now without much difficulty ; if D'Estaing is come to Europe, the Moment is favourable so is the season ; troops & line of battle ships cannot be employed to any Material purpose in the Winter in America ; might it not then be adviseable to dispatch orders instantly to the Admiral & General to send a sufficient force in Ships & troops to act offensively, & to recover some of our Islands, if not conquer some of those originally in possession of the enemy ? But the measure of all others that is most [to] be wished would be the reduction of Martinico, if that could be effected the whole would fall with it, and the stroke would be so sensibly felt by France that it would probably put an end to the War. The State of our fleet in the Leeward Islands is, it is to be feared very deplorable ; there remain still under the Command of Admiral Parker 22 sail of the Line, but of these all that have been deeply concerned in the late action, & some others, must return home

before they can be considered as fit for every Service. But if D'Estaing is returned to Europe (as some suppose him to be with 13 Ships which I own I can scarcely believe) Admiral Parker will still retain a superiority when the disabled Ships are sailed for England; and we must at all events take care to have a reinforcement of fresh Ships there with as little delay as possible, but where they can be taken from till the Campaign is over I profess I cannot point out; and even then the losing them from home service will be most severely felt in our principal & perhaps Most vulnerable part. There is one circumstance concerning the Leeward Islands that deserves most serious attention, and without something is done in that the French will allways maintain their Fleets & Islands in good condition, and be [free] from the innumerable distresses which we are Subject to. from conversing with Admiral Barrington & from what I knew before I am convinced that two thirds of the provisions that we carry out under Convoy from England and Ireland is, on its arrival in our Islands, immediately Shipped off for S^{t}: Eustatia & from thence to Martinico, without which the French could not keep their fleet in a condition for Sea. it is idle to talk of restraining such abuses by Laws; the rapacity of Merchants overbear all legal obstructions, and nothing but more forcible coercion can restrain from anything in which they find their immediate interest.

I come next to Jamaica upon which I own I speak with trembling, for I see the danger with which that Island is surrounded without being able to suggest any effectual means of giving it relief. Sir Peter Parker has with him only one Ship of the Line, three or four of 50 & 40 guns & some frigates; the Vengeance that was sent to reinforce him is now at the Leeward Islands, and by the last letters seems to be detained there as part of that Squadron.

The Spaniards either have or certainly will detach some force from Europe, and I believe they have several line of battle Ships now at the Havanna; and as to land forces, what the French & they have at S^{t} Domingo will it is to be feared be more than sufficient to take Jamaica, allmost without striking a blow: indeed I am in constant Apprehension of hearing that the blow is allready struck.

All these important services must be filled by Ships at home & that will be soon ready for Sea; let us see what those Ships

are, and consider what our Stock is before we make draughts from which it may not be able to answer.

And here I cannot help laying it down as the foundation of the whole that the safety of these Kingdoms requires that this Stock should not be drawn so low, as to leave us unable to resist the united efforts of the house of Bourbon in these Seas : fighting for our existence as a State with a force very inferior is a most lamentable consideration ; but such will our situation be, if we make our detachments without having that object allways before our eyes. Let us then consider what our Naval force really is, what it will be, and at what periods it is to be hoped any additions may be made to it ; but here I must allways desire to be understood that I do not speak with precision as to the time of the readiness of any Ship ; I can only tell my opinion as to what now appears probable for delays in building and equipment often occur so unexpectedly from being obliged to take men off for more pressing services & from other causes, that it would be the utmost indiscretion to Speak with any degree of certainty upon that subject.

Sir Charles Hardy has now under his Command only 40 good & serviceable Ships of the Line, for two of 42 Namely the Blenheim & Arrogant are only fit to go out in the Summer upon such an emergency as the late one when the enemy was at our door ; and they cannot now venture beyond Plymouth or the Lizard without manifest risque to the lives of their crew : these Ships however it is to be hoped may be so repaired in the course of the Winter, as to become effective & fit for Summer Service in the Channel. None of these 40 Ships as I have allready said can be had till the Campaign is over, those that are now in commission and in any forwardness are the

Guns	
90	Sandwich
90	Ocean
74	Edgar
74	Alcide
74	Ajax
74	Montagu

Those that will be ready (that is to say out of the Shipwrights hands) before the beginning of April Next, follow, with the

probable times marked for their being in that state of readiness: after which there must be allowed them one with another at least two months before they can be manned, stored & fit for Sea; and if men are not to be had no time can be fixed for their being ready: and it is to be observed that unless the Ordnance Co-operates strongly in dispatching their part of this business a great deal of the equipment cannot be depended on.

74	Dublin	November
74	Torbay	November
90	Barfleur	December
64	Inflexible	January
74	Bellona	middle of March
74	Hero	March
74	Kent	March
84	Royal William	end of March
90	Blenheim	end of March
74	Arrogant	end of March

To these may be added the crippled Ships that will return from the West Indies, none of which it is to be supposed will want any repair that will employ a length of time; so that I imagine I may venture to say that they will all be ready for service in the Spring: for the sake of accuracy I will suppose these ships to be about eight in number. our whole force then that we have, and possibly may have at home fit for Sea between this and the beginning of April 1780.

Sir Charles Hardys fleet	40
nearly ready for Sea	6
Coming from the W: Indies	8
will be out of the Shipwrights hands by the end of the year	4
	58

Six more will be in service in the middle of the Summer, but cannot be depended on sooner.

Upon this force all our Naval operations depend; we have no other source to draw from and no possibility of augmenting our strength; on the contrary all accidents are against us, and our numbers may be delayed or diminished but cannot be encreased.

But it will be asked, why when we have as great if not greater force than ever we had the enemy are superior to us ? to this it is to be answered that England till this time was never engaged in a sea war with the House of Bourbon thoroughly united, their Naval force unbroken, and having no other war or object to draw off their attention & resources : We unfortunately have an additional war upon our hands which essentially drains our finances, & employs a very considerable part of our Navy & Army : We have no one friend or ally to assist us, on the contrary all those who ought to be our Allies, except Portugal, act against us in supplying our enemies with the means of equipping their fleets ; but still had we been early enough in our preparations, and had not suffered them to go on arming & Building without keeping pace with them, their superiority would certainly have not been so decided.

I think it is very easy to demonstrate that our Naval force is at this time greater than ever it was at any other period, we now have Ships in actual service at home & abroad 79

Guardships	3
Nearly ready	6
	88

of these there are

with Sir Charles Hardy	42
in the Mediterranean	1
Leeward Islands	22
Jamaica	1
East Indies	8
America	5
at home fitting	6
Guardships	3
will be ready in the Spring	4

to these add

Taken by the enemy	1
Shipwrecked	2
total equipment since the beginning of the war	95

But these ships are exceedingly Superior in size & number of guns to those employed in the last war ; for of those that were

in commission in the year 1759 which was the greatest effort ever made till now, when the whole number of line of battle amounted to 97, these were to be reckoned 29 of 60 guns & 5 guardships ; (and it is to be observed that this exertion could not be carried to this extent till the fourth year of the equipment) whereas in our number of 88 are to be included only 5 of 60 guns & 3 guardships.

By this state it will appear that before April we shall, nearly in number, but greatly in strength have exceeded every former exertion. But, under all our difficulties, if, as I have allready said, our equipment had began Sooner ; or had an effectual blow been struck against the French fleet before they were joined by Spain, we should probably still have been triumphant everywhere ; but I am not yet inclined to despair, if we manage the force we have with prudence our case does not appear to me yet to be desperate ; but as we have a deep Stake to play for, we ought in my opinion to husband our strength & to employ it only on these services which are of the most importance, and have a probability of being attended with success.

Extract of Admiral Duffs order to Captain Gell of the Thetis, dated Gibraltar July 26th 1779.

You are hereby required & directed to proceed to Lisbon and about the end of September or in the month of October to take on board as much bread & flour and other provisions as you can stow so as to keep your Ship in Sailing trim, but particularly of the two former articles *Bread & Flour* which will be most wanted here ; and therewith you are to make the best of your way hither, using all Manner of caution in your passage, and not on any account to enter the Straits but with a Strong Westerly wind & in the Night time, so as to fetch this place before day light in the morning which may ensure your safety

Signed Rob: Duff.

No. 2777—*Lord North to the King.*

[? *September*, 1779.]

Sir—I was prevented this morning from paying my duty at S^{t} James's by attending a Committee of Council, & by

two conferences, one with Lord Gower, & the other with Lord Stormont.

As soon as I open'd to Lord Gower your Majesty's intended arrangements, he stop'd me by saying that it had been his intention to call first upon me least the resolution he had taken should appear to have some relation to the persons comprized in any proposed plan of administration—That he had long felt the utmost uneasiness at the manner in which your Majesty's affairs had been conducted, & at the weakness of government. That nothing is done in the material objects of government; That, in particular, no plan is settled with respect to the affairs of Ireland in which he felt himself personally concern'd after what pass'd last year in the House of Lords. That we were now at the Eve of a meeting of the Irish Parliament, & that the utmost confusion might be expected from that quarter. That no precautions had been taken to guard against it, & no measures determined upon which might pacify the Irish.—That there is no discipline in the State, in the Army, or the Navy, & that inevitable ruin must be the consequence of the present system of government—That he therefore thinks himself obliged in conscience as well as in prudence to request an immediate dismission from his employment, where he can be of no use in averting the evils which impend over this country—That he never means to return into office, but that in his private capacity, he will strenuously support your Majesty's government; That he has always consider'd the opposition as more wicked than the Administration is weak, & has not the least connexion with any of the opposers of government. That he Fears every remedy may be too late in our present evils, & that the authority of government is not to be recover'd, but that he holds it absolutely impossible that the Public business can in moments like these, be carried on against a strong & formidable opposition—That nothing can afford the least hope but a coalition—and he is doubtful of the benefit which may now be deriv'd from it—That it is, however, in his opinion, a necessary measure—That he feels the greatest gratitude to your Majesty for your goodness towards him, but that he does not think it the duty of a faithful servant to endeavour to preserve & continue a system which must terminate in the ruin of your Majesty & this country.

Lord Gower desired me to communicate this conversation to

your Majesty, which I have endeavour'd to do as correctly as my memory will permit; When your Majesty sees him, You will be able to learn, whether I have represented correctly what he said to me: If there is no impropriety in your Majesty's reading this part of my letter, I should be glad if it were communicated to him, that your Majesty may know whether I have fairly stated the conversation or not.

When I saw Lord Stormont I mention'd your Majesty's gracious intentions with respect to him, but, as I could not open to him the state of the Administration, I did not think myself entitled to request his immediate answer.

I think myself obliged to lay before your Majesty my sentiments upon this resolution of Lord Gower, which are That if he carries it into execution, there is an immediate end to the present administration: I have long & often humbly represented to your Majesty my inability to carry on your Majesty's business; I feel it every day more & more, & I am almost certain that I shall be abandon'd in the next Session of Parliament. The retreat of Lord Gower, & the consequences which will certainly follow, will totally cripple government. Let me intreat your Majesty to turn it in your mind, whether a Coalition, which I agree with Lord Gower, is the only possible remedy in our present situation, may not be obtain'd by my removal, & whether it is worth while to keep me any longer when I am forced to confess that my Spirits & my faculties fail me sensibly, & grow worse every day. Your Majesty knows that I shall be contented to retire without any honour or emolument whatever. Before I see your Majesty tomorrow I will turn this matter in my thoughts, & endeavour to give you the best advice in my power, but I am really so broken, that I cannot trust my judgement more than my abilities. I have the honour to subscribe myself with the most dutiful attachment, Sir, your most obedient & most faithful Subject & servant, NORTH.

P.S. I take the liberty of inclosing some papers of intelligence.
N.

No. 2778—*Mr. Jenkinson to the King.*

War Office
Wednesday [? 15 *September* 1779].
$\frac{m}{40}$ P.M.

I have just had an Interview with Lord Gower at his Desire & a very long & confidential Conversation with Him; I will tell the whole to your Majesty when I pay my Duty to You; but as my Audience is always the last, I thought it right in this manner to apprize your Majesty of it & to express a Wish that if the Chancellour comes to the Levée, You would see Him, & have a kind & confidential Conversation with Him.

From Your Majestys Dutyfull Subject C. Jenkinson.

No. 2779—*Mr. Jenkinson to the King.*

I have had a long Conversation with Lord Gower & He seems to me to be in every respect well disposed, so that I think your Majesty may venture to Speak openly for Him.

From Your Majesty's Dutyfull Subject C. Jenkinson.

War Office
Sep^{r} 15th 1779
12 *o'clock.*

No. 2780.

Proposals humbly Offered to The King regarding the Services of the Troops.

15th *Sept* 1779.
Amherst.

When the combined Fleet is separated, it may be supposed, The Intention of invading England is laid aside for the present, and it is probable, from the great Preparations which have been made, that something else will be attempted: Jersey and Guernsey will, likely, be the Objects, and precautions seem necessary to be taken, of having a proper Fleet to protect those Islands, and to frustrate the Enemy's Intentions.

The next necessary Step to be taken, seems to be, sending Stores, Provisions, and every requisite to Gibralter, and a Reinforcement of Troops to Minorca as was intended some time ago.

The great Force of the House of Bourbon, both by Sea and Land, And America being Hostile, appears, at first sight, to be too great a Weight, for this Country to support itself against in every Part, without the strongest exertions and most favourable Events.

The West India Islands can be secured only by a superior Naval Force, as there are not Troops sufficient to protect them from the superior Force of the Enemy in the West Indies : unless Troops could be detached from N^r America.

May it not be very well worth attempting, to gain the Americans by an Attack on the Spanish Settlements ? in hopes of plunder and gaining Lands to settle on : The Islands of Trinidado and Porto-Rico, seem favourable to that end, and 5,000 Men would be sufficient for that service :

If the Americans could be prevailed on to joyn it might lay a foundation for the Colonies returning to their duty, and giving a successfull turn to the War.

The retaking S^t: Vincents and Grenada, are other objects ; a much greater one, would be attacking S^t: Domingo ; but this last might require a greater Number of Troops, than can be spared from N^o America, consistently with a due attention, to the defence of Places, necessary to be guarded there, and with carrying on the Offensive Operations to the Southward : as the Winter Months are the most favourable for taking possession of New Orleans ; and of gaining Charles Town, if it should be thought adviseable.

The Winter Months do not allow of any Operations being carryed on, in the Northern Parts of America ; therefore all the Troops that can be spared, cannot be better employed, than in the West India Islands : the Month of November would be the proper time for their sailing from the Continent : And they might be employed 'til May.

By the return of Troops in Nova Scotia these were *3711* R & F : *1000* at least may be taken for the Winter : at Rhode Island there were *5895*, some may be taken from thence : And if the Commander in Chief in America is ordered to send all the

Force he can spare for the Winter Months: And the Officer intrusted with the Command of those Troops, is instructed, to make such attacks, and pursue such Services, as from the number of Troops he may be enabled to do, it is hoped, it may tend much to the good of His Majesty's Service.

No. 2781.

MINUTE OF CABINET

[In Lord Sandwich's handwriting.]

At a Meeting of His Majesty's Servants at L^d^ Weymouths in Arlington Street Sept: 16^th^ 1779

Present

L^d^ Chancellor
L^d^ President
L^d^ Sandwich
L^d^ George Germaine
L^d^ Weymouth
L^d^ North
L^d^ Amherst

Agreed that it be recommended to His Majesty that three Ships of the Line be detached from America to the Leeward Islands immediately with such body of troops as can be spared from thence without distressing the operations in America. these Ships to be replaced early in the Spring.

To send five or six copper bottomed Ships to the Leeward Islands & Jamaica, to be taken from Sir Charles Hardys fleet as soon as his cruize is ended.

To send the Edgar & three other Line of battle Ships, not of Sir Charles Hardys fleet, with a convoy to Gibraltar, & from thence to proceed directly to the West Indies with the first Easterly wind after their arrival at Gibraltar.

If a sufficient land force cannot be sent to the West Indies from America, to consider what troops may be sent from England with the Ships that are to be taken from Sir Charles Hardy's fleet; but that at all events, a force of not less than 5000 troops Should be sent to the West Indies.

Any reinforcement for Minorca may be sent out with the Gibraltar Convoy, to be forwarded to Minorca whenever the Admiral at Gibraltar sees a fair opportunity of sending them thither.

No. 2782—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

Lord Sandwich has the honour to send to your Majesty the account just recieved from Commissioner Kirk.

Lord Sandwich omitted to mention to your Majesty that if Sir George Rodney should from his indigence have any temptation to make advantage of purchasing stores or anything else of that sort, he will have no means of doing it at present, as there will be a Commissioner on the Spot thro' whose hands all that business must be transacted.

ADMIRALTY
Sept: 17th 1779

No. 2783—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

ADMIRALTY *Sept.* 19th 1779

Lord Sandwich has the honour to send to your Majesty Captain Botelers letter containing his account of the loss of the Ardent.

It appears by Commissioner Kirks accounts which come herewith that they continue filling water to keep up their Stock, after their original demand has been complied with. There are no returns from Portsmouth except those in your Majesty's possession from Sir Charles Hardy, Sir Thomas Pye having sent none for the last fortnight.

The Fly Sloop that so gallantly engaged the two Sloops. that attacked the Hawich packetts is arrived in Yarmouth roads, but We have as yet no account from the Captain concerning the Action.

No. 2784—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

Lord Sandwich has the satisfaction to enclose to your Majesty an account of a very important Success in America under the Command of Sir George Collier.

Captain Dixon who conveys this account brings another material piece of news, namely, that yesterday morning he passed the West India fleet safe off the Start, so that they are probably by this time arrived in the Douns & at Spithead.

ADMIRALTY
Sept: 23^{d} 1779.

No. 2785—*Mr. Robinson to the King.*

M^{r} Robinson has the Honour to transmit to Your Majesty a Box which Lord North left this Morning, when he went for Dover, and to inclose therein for Your Majesty's Signature, if Your Majesty shall so please, a Warant for granting a Pension to M^{r} Serle, during pleasure: M^{r} Robinson had yesterday a Conversation with Lord Howe on this Business, and his Lordship will very thankfully receive this Pension during pleasure instead of the One first thought of for 31 years.—M^{r} Robinson also humbly begs leave to submit to Your Majesty a Secret Service Warrant and some other Warrants for Your Majestys Signature, if Your Majesty shall please to approve thereof, and likewise the dispatches to the Treasury which have been received from Major Gen^{l} Provost and from Governor Burt.

TREASURY CHAMBERS
24th *September* 1779
30/*m.p.* 1^{o} P.M.

No. 2786—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

ADMIRALTY *Sept*: 25th 1779.

Lord Sandwich thinks the enclosed intelligence of such consequence as to deserve your Majesty's notice; as it looks as if Mons^{r} D'Estaing was gone to Hispaniola instead of being come to Europe.

It is not improbable that the 13 ships arrived in Quiberon bay, may be the 13 ships which were mistaken for Mons^{r} D'Estaings fleet in Port Royal Harbour at Martinico.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2787.

SHIPS & VESSELS UNDER THE COMMAND OF COMM^{DR} BRISBANE.

Pegasus		28 guns
Medea		28
Pandora		24
Champion		24
Drake—Sloop		14
Nimble—	Cutters	12
Rambler		

No. 2788—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 283.

WINDSOR CASTLE *Sept.* 27th 1779

As I do not propose going to Town till Friday unless some unexpected event should require my presence sooner, I do not chuse to delay reminding Lord North of the letter I had advised him to write to Lord George Germain in answer to the one wherein he submitted though reluctantly to the re establishment of a first Lord of Trade in favour of Lord Carlisle ; if the letter has not yet been wrote I would advise that after mentioning my approbation of Lord George's conduct on this occasion, yet that I differ with him in opinion as to its being a degrading of his Office, that I look upon it as very different it placing him in every respect on the Same line as the two antient Secretaries, and that it will place Lord Carlisle in an Executive Office not one of Direction of Measures which it might not have been right to place the Signer of the Proclamation of the last Year as far as regards America.

The reason I am anxious no time may be lost in finishing this business is that Lord Stormont may be immediately sent for, He ought to be sometime in Office before he will be so far master of the business as to be of that use in Parliament which I have every reason to Suppose his abilities the last Session will enable him to be of ; besides it will enable Lord North to settle with

Lord Carlisle which should not be delayed an hour. As to Lord Talbot I will answer that He will resign with good humour the hour he is assured he shall get the Barony and the Wardrobe, that will enable Lord North to recommend Lord Hillsborough to the Office he most wishes of any in my Service and by removing Lord Lyttleton whose private Character makes him no credit to my Service, Lord Charles Spencer may be placed much to his Mind and the D of Marlborough consequently pleased who is certainly very deserving of it from an uniform conduct towards me ever since I have known him ; this will shew to the World my resolution of carrying matters with Spirit, and will secure the loose ones who are looking to See what part will be taken before they decide.

No. 2789—*Lord Weymouth to the King.*

This Commission is sent to Your Majesty for signing, as I am just informed that the Lord Chancellor means to go to Bath on Sunday, in which case there will not be time to send it to him to affix the great Seal, if it should not be signed before the Council is held for the Prorogation of the Parliament.

S^T^ JAMES'S
Oct. 1^st^ 1779
3 *o'clock* P.M.

No. 2790—*Mr. Robinson to the King.*

M^r^ Robinson has the Honour to acquaint Your Majesty that the Meeting of the Freeholders of the County of Middlesex residing within the Tower Hamletts held to Day, was not numerous, not exceeding 120 People ; That M^r^ Byng was there, accompanied by M^r^ Baker Member for Aldborough, and a M^r^ Draper an Auctioneer, and many other ffriends ;

M^r^ Draper proposed M^r^ Byng to represent the County, Coll. Tuffnell was proposed by M^r^ Spiller, and Lord Mahon and Sir Tho^s^ Hallifax were likewise named but not supported. Questions arose whether M^r^ Byng and M^r^ Tuffnell could offer themselves being already in Parliament, and it was much debated, on which M^r^ Tuffnell declared he had applied to Lord North for

the Chiltern Hundred and hoped to have them to vacate his Seat for Beverley, which made M^r^ Byng very angry, and declare that altho' he had a very great regard for Coll Tuffnell he must now consider him, as a Ministerial Candidate, and w^d^ oppose him, and apply also to Lord North to vacate his Seat—During this Altercation many persons went away, However M^r^ Byngs ffriends insisted on a Division, on which there appeared for M^r^ Byng 40—for M^r^ Tuffnell 37 according to the best Account M^r^ Robinson could get of the Division, and it was insisted that a General Meeting of the County should be called, and twelve ffreeholders wrote to the Sheriffs to request such Meeting—It's apprehended that Sir Charles Thompson may come in for Beverley in Coll Tuffnell's room very easily. The Duke of Northumberland has had a very full explicit and satisfactory explanation with M^r^ Tuffnell, altho' M^r^ Tuffnell has in general hitherto gone against Administration.

4^t^ *Oct^r^* 1779
10^o^ P.M.

No. 2791—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

ADMIRALTY *Octo*: 9^th^ 1779

Lord Sandwich, upon a presumption that your Majesty will forgive his troubling you with any information that he can give relative to the language & disposition of your principal Servants, takes the liberty to inform your Majesty that he has this morning had a long and very confidential conversation with M^r^ Rigby upon the present State of the Administration.

M^r^ Rigby did not drop anything that looked as if he was informed of L^d^ Gowers having apprized Your Majesty of his determination to quit your service ; he said that L^d^ Gower had told him two years ago that he was desirous of retiring, but he did not intimate that he knew he had taken that resolution finally and decisevely at this time.

He lamented very much the indecision & weak management of L^d^ North, to whom he attributes everything that has or may happen amiss ; he allso expressed himself strongly against L^d^ Weymouths unfitness for the office of Secretary of State under whom it was impossible the business of the House of Lords could go on for another Session, and added that he was positive L^d^

Weymouth knew his own unfitness, and would readily accept a more quiet office.

As a proof of L^d^ Norths negligence he said that he knew that L^d^ Carlisle had been suffered to go out of town without having been asked whither he would accept the Board of Trade, tho' he understood it was open for his acceptance.

Nothing that fell from M^r^ Rigby conveyed the most distant idea that he wished this administration should be at an end; on the contrary he lamented the probability that it would be so, and that he himself should be included in the disaster.

He acknowledged that two active Secretaries of State would do much towards bringing things right, but did not know where they were to be found: he allowed that L^d^ Stormont would be a very good one.

He said that from L^d^ Norths dilatoryness, & talking of arrangements which he never carried into execution, he was convinced he would not meet the Parliament; and both himself (Rigby) and Lord Sandwich should lose their employments.

As they were parting, Lord Sandwich said that after all, he remained of opinion that this Administration was the best of all notwithstanding its weakness in some points; to which he declared his most hearty assent.

Lord Sandwich is to see M^r^ Robinson to morrow morning at Sion by appointment, to talk to him upon the same subject; and if your Majesty chuses to be troubled again, he will send an account of everything material that passes in their conversation.

Lord Sandwich had like to have omitted mentioning that M^r^ Rigby said that he carried L^d^ Carlisle home from dinner at L^d^ Gowers on Wednesday last, and that his language was rather that of Opposition, but precisely expressing his opinion that this Administration could not last.

No. 2792—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

ADMIRALTY *Octo.* 10^th^ 1779
10 *o'clock* A.M.

Lord Sandwich takes the liberty to inform your Majesty that he is now setting out for Sion, & when he returns to town will have the honor to add to this letter what passes between M^r^

Robinson & him, and in their conversation Lord Sandwich will pay particular attention to the hints conveyed in your Majesty's letter.

Lord Sandwich did not think it adviseable to press M^r Rigby upon the subject of L^d Gowers resignation, for fear of breaking the confidence by which he has been so highly honoured; it is therefore not to be understood that Rigby refused to open himself upon that point, as nothing was strongly urged to lead him to it.

Lord Hillsborough's name was mentioned in the conversation between Rigby & L^d Sandwich, and all the former said concerning him was that he might do tolerably well but that he would not bring us any additional strength.

Your Majesty will find in the box a letter from Sir Charles Hardy acknowledging the receipt of his Sailing orders, and another containing an account of the melancholly catastrophe of the Quebec, in which it is to be feared that poor Captain Fermor with the greatest part of his gallant Crew have been involved.

two o'clock P.M.

Lord Sandwich is now returned from M^r Robinsons & has the honour to inform your Majesty, that he either did not or pretend not to know that Lord Gower had signified his intention of retiring. Lord Sandwich told him that from the conversation he had had with Rigby, and from what he himself had collected from Lord Gowers & L^d Carlisles language that he was convinced the former meant to withdraw himself from this Administration tho' he did not think he would go into opposition, and that therefore in his opinion L^d North ought to act upon the idea that that event was certain & form his arrangement without delay; that if this resignation took place there was an employment open for L^d Weymouth, who Rigby said he was positive would accept a less active employment than that he now held, and L^d Sandwich said that from that opening on the part of Rigby he was ready, if it was thought right, to ask Rigby to sound L^d Weymouth upon the subject of taking a less active office.

M^r Robinson agreed in the propriety and the necessity of making an immediate arrangement & disposing of the vacancies that were or might be made, he said that if I was right about

L^d^ Gowers intention of resigning no time ought to be lost in finding him a Successor, that he was sure Lord North would approve of L^d^ Weymouth on that occasion, but that as to my sounding him thro' Rigby's channel he thought that had better not be done, as he believed your Majesty would chuse to open it to Lord Weymouth yourself, having shewn willingness to speak to him upon some former idea of arrangement which did not take place.

He said that on Teusday [*sic*] last he had had a long & fuller conversation with L^d^ North than he ever had before, and had found him much calmer than usual, and determined at all events to go on with your Majestys Measures; seeing the very unpleasant situation he should leave your Majesty in, if this wicked opposition should be suffered to break in upon you.

He said that if L^d^ Weymouth came to town on Teusday (which he certainly does) & that L^d^ Gower acted as I thought he would, he concluded the arrangement would take place in the course of this week, & that he saw the impropriety of its being delayed a moment longer.

He added that both he & L^d^ North saw plainly that the only thing to be done was to go on with the friends we now had, that there was no hopes of any accession of strength, therefore we ought to exert ourselves to the utmost with the strength we were possessed of. He agreed with me in opinion about Rigby's disposition that he would go on acting with L^d^ North for his own interest, tho' he wished for coalitions that might strengthen our hands.

M^r^ Robinson said that he was persuaded the Attorney General would go into Opposition at the beginning of the Sessions. Lord Sandwich has this moment recieved a very sensible letter from Admiral Hyde Parker, & two letters from Admiral Byron who is arrived in England.

No. 2793—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 284.

WINDSOR CASTLE *Oct* 11^th^ 1779

The intelligence from North America is far from unpleasant it shews that with the force small as it was that was sent this

Summer, that had it arrived early much might have been done this Year; the reinforcement the next must at all events be sent by the first Week in March. Clinton must be kept there at all events.

I should hope to find a note from Lord North either at Kew or at S^{t} James's tomorrow with an opinion whether I had not best open the affair of Lord Gower to Lord Weymouth, and offer him the Presidency of the Council, I would add that Lord North entirely coincides with me in the propriety of the Arrangement this would advance matters; for the sooner Lord Stormont is appointed the better; the last Letters from Harris give a chance of some good from Russia but it must be followed up from hence, such an event would give great credit to Administration.

No. 2794—*Lord Amherst to the King.*

M^{r} Jenkinson has sent me an Answer which he has received from L^{t} General Burgoyne, a copy of which, I humbly beg leave to lay before Your Majesty, as also a Draft of an answer to the said letter, with a proposed alteration as I humbly conceive, Your Majesty's accepting the resignation, may be more than what the Lieutenant General intended, and might be deemed severe usage.

M. General Faucitt sat [*sic*] out on Saturday Evening from London, I conclude, would arrive at his Command Yesterday.

near WHITEHALL
Tuesday 12th *Oct*
½ *after* 2 *o'Clock* P.M.

AMHERST.

No. 2795—*The King to Lord Amherst.*

WINDSOR CASTLE *Oct* 12th 1779

The whole tenour of Lieut. Gen. Burgoyne's conduct since his return from America has been so very contrary to military obedience, that I am very far from clear what lenient measures He has left me room to employ without a total subversion of all Military Discipline, The letter the Secretary at War was directed

to sign must be looked upon as waste paper if no mark of rigour attends so Attorney like an Epistle as the Answer the Lieut Gen has sent to it, of which the enclosed is the Copy transmitted by Lord Amherst. I shall therefore avoid giving any opinion on the proposed continuation of the Correspondence, untill L^d^ Amherst can report to me the opinion of the Cabinet on the perusal of the very indecent Answer which has been sent to the Secretary at War when writing by my command.

Draft.

No. 2796—*The King to Mr. Jenkinson.*

KEW *Oct* 16^th^ 1779.

The enclosed is a rough draft of such preliminaries as I should think absolutely necessary to have delivered if I am obliged to have any step taken towards Opposition; I desire M^r^ Jenkinson will examine it, and propose such alterations and Additions as He may think will put in the Strongest and clearest light my Sentiments, that public measures not personality are the guide of my conduct. I do not like being drove to such a measure but if it cannot be avoided it ought at least to have one certain effect that of enabling me to shew my People how patriotically I have conducted myself.

No. 2797—*The King to the Lord Chancellor.*

WINDSOR CASTLE *Oct* 16^th^ 1779.

MY LORD—The same opinion of Your tallents, and strict adherence to Your Political Sentiments, which made me desirous of placing You at the head of Your Profession, makes me take this method of apprizing You of some remarkable events that have occurred since Your departure from Town. The intention of Lord Gower to retire from my Service may I believe have been conveyed to You, but not his having actually notified it unto Me; I should have thought it better timed if it had been mentioned to me after the very full confession I made to the

Cabinet of my political Sentiments at the Queen's House in the month of June, either at that meeting, or if he was not then prepared, in his last Audience before he went to Trentham; now it is adding difficulties but a few Weeks before the meeting of Parliament. His language was to this effect, that Administration is weak, a want of activity, decision or subordination in every department, at the same time Opposition very wicked and he owned not to be trusted, yet that a coalition ought to be attempted which if effected might save the Country, yet that he saw no day light as to the possibility of producing this, but that it would put them in the wrong if they refused it, and that might produce good; in short he seemed to despond and to think ruin inevitably near at hand and he fears no way left to prevent it.

Lord Weymouth whom I saw Yesterday was not apprized of this resolution till Wednesday; he thinks ill of our present situation yet does not seem to give me any prospect that a coalition can be expected.

Lord North has my directions to talk farther with Lord Weymouth on the Subject, when I know the result of this I shall write more fully unto You but I think it but fair to State that I am clear of opinion and that founded on cool reflection that if my present Ministers cannot go on it is my duty to draw a veil over the many personalities that have most unjustly been thrown out against me as far as regards any Men of tallents who will at this hour come and join part of my Ministers to extricate the Kingdom out of its difficulties; but before I enter into any consideration as to particular Offices I must have an Assurance that it is intended to strain every nerf to keep the Empire entire, to persecute [*sic*] the War with Vigour in all its branches, and that past Measures shall be treated with respect. The whole of this is so analogous to Your Sentiments that I cannot doubt of Your assistance if the measure should become necessary; I shall not detain You longer than to add that I have here stated the farthest lengths I can go, and if there are any persons who think the difficulties of the times may bring me to farther concessions they are much mistaken.

Draft, endorsed by the King.

No. 2798—*Lord North to the King.*

[16 *October*, 1779.]

Lord North has the honour of sending his Majesty a letter he has received from the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland & two which are just come to hand from S^r^ Henry Clinton with one from Gen: Knyphausen. He has taken the Liberty to add an appointment for M^r^ Tuffnell to the Chiltern Hundreds for his Majesty's signature if approved, as this election, & the grant of the Stewardship is likely to be disputed, Lord North thinks it more safe that the appointment should be by his Majesty, as it will then be out of doubt a sufficient cause for vacating M^r^ Tuffnell's seat.

Lord North expects every minute a visit from the D. of Northumberland with a proposal for supporting M^r^ Tuffnell with some money from the Civil List if necessary, but Lord North will not engage to issue any for the support of M^r^ Tuffnell, till he has received his Majesty's pleasure.

Downing Street
Saturday morning.

Endorsed by the King, Oct. 16th, 1779.

No. 2799—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 286.

Windsor Castle
Oct. 16^th^ 1779. $\frac{m}{46}$ p^t 4. P.M.

I cannot say the letter from the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland contains much information, except that of his desire to conform himself to such directions as He may receive from hence, which is I am sorry to say the first time he has shewed such an inclination. The late M^r^ Grenville used whenever a contest was expected to follow the mode proposed on the present occasion by Lord North, namely prepare the Warrants for my Signature instead of that of the Treasury. If the D. of Northumberland requires some gold pills for the Election it would be wrong not to give him some assistance.

No. 2800—*Mr. Jenkinson to the King.*

ADDESCOMBE PLACE.
Oct. 16*th.* 1779.

I have presumed to make some trifling alterations with my Pencil in the Draught which your Majesty has been so good as to send me, which I submit to your Majesty's consideration; In every other respect, the Draught is in my poor Judgement perfectly right.

I perfectly agree with your Majesty that it would not be proper to take a step of this sort till from the State of Affairs it becomes absolutely necessary; This may not perhaps be the Case even yet; but it is right to be prepared, as such an Event is certainly nearer than one could have expected, owing to the strange Conduct of some of your Majesty's present Servants and the Hatred and Dissentions that subsist between Part of them. But if a Transaction of this sort is to come forwards, I would submit to your Majesty whether it should not go through the Hands of the Lord Chancellour; It may be proposed to Lord North, Lord Gower and Lord Weymouth, but if they are not pressed, I think they will all be desirous of declining it.

My reasons for making use of the Chanel of the Lord Chancellor are these.

He is from His Office and Abilities a more respectable Character than the others.

He is the properest Person to be a Witness of your Majesty's Conduct and Intentions and to avow them to the World.

He is more attachd to your Majesty's Principles, He is, I conceive, more attach[d] to His present situation than any of the others; For all which reasons He is more likely to support strenuously your Majesty's Authority and Opinions, and from the Roughness of His Nature, He is better able to contend with part of the opposition and more likely to have some Authority over them.

He will keep the Busyness from the Hands of little Agents and those who love to intrigue.

He is upon the whole better with your Majesty's present Ministers than any of the others.

I am more inclined to this Idea, as I recollect that in a

similar Situation the late King was advised to employ the late Lord Hardwick in a Busyness of this sort.

For these reasons I humbly submit to your Majesty the Propriety of writing immediately for the Lord Chancellour a *kind* and *confidential* letter which will prepare Him for a Busyness of this Nature; Your Majesty may paint to Him your present Embarrassments and difficulties and may tell him, that His Character and the Credit of His Principles and former Opinions are as much at stake as your own.

I hope your Majesty will pardon this Freedom from Your Majesty's Dutiful Subject, C. Jenkinson.

No. 2801—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

Admiralty *Octo*: 16*th* 1779.

Lord Sandwich has the honour to inform your Majesty that yesterday L^d^ North called on him after he came out of the Closet; when he was very open and communicative upon the present state of your Majesty's government; he mentioned L^d^ Gowers resignation and L^d^ Weymouths coldness, and asked L^d^ Sandwich's opinion what should be done.

Lord Sandwich of course pointed out decision and immediate execution of whatever plan your Majesty meant to pursue, and he thinks what he said made much impression; especially as L^d^ North said he would go to L^d^ Stormont immediately. None of his conversation led to his own resignation, but on the contrary pointed towards the mode of carrying on the business of the next sessions.

He complained of not being supported in the House of Commons, and said that Mr. Jenkinson in the capacity of a chancellor of the Exchequer would be of great use to him there, and very much so as a member of the Cabinet. Lord Sandwich thinks he added that even if he was in the Cabinet as Mr. Fox was, being Secretary at war, it would have great advantages. in this Lord Sandwich joined entirely with him in opinion, and presumes to suggest to your Majesty that the giving L^d^ North such an assistant as Mr. Jenkinson would have the best of consequences, would keep up his spirits and make him more decisive, and would indeed make him a different man.

Lord Sandwich has seen Mr. Robinson this morning before

he had been with L^d North, has told him what passed yesterday, and sent him to L^d North with a full determination to inculcate decision and activity in his principal, and to urge him to go on with spirit in carrying on the present system. Mr. Robinson thinks that nothing could be more advantageous to your Majesty's affairs than that Mr. Jenkinson should be in the Cabinet as Secretary at War.

Your Majesty will recieve herewith all the letters to this office that deserve your attention, and will observe from Sir Charles Hardys private letter not only that it is his intention to proceed to sea the first moment the wind will allow him to do so, but that he will probably be able to take some of the sickly Ships with him.

No. 2802—*Lord George Germain to the King.*

Lord George Germain has the honor of sending your Majesty the letters brought by Lieutenant Colonel Pye from New York.

There was no news of Conte d'Estaign's fleet and no suspicion of an attack, but they were however fortifying the narrows were erecting a Strong Fort upon long Island, and orders were given for putting Governors Island in a State of defence, all the Batteries at New York were repaired and strengthen'd. If S^r Henry Clinton has but a few days notice of M^r D'Estaings designs he will certainly be able to secure himself at New York. Lieutenant Colonel Pye says that on the 16^th and for several days after when they were off the Coast of Virginia there was the most violent Storm—the Captain of the Packet boat had ever seen, they perceived much damage had been done by it as many pieces of Ship's boats rigging and Masts were floating near them, one yard and Mast they took in to supply their own Ship with, which was known to belong to a French Vessel; it is to be hoped that M^r D'Estaigns Fleet has had the whole of this Storm, in which case he must go into Port to refit before he can act offensively.

Lord Rawdon has resigned and is no longer Adjutant General. Lieutenant Colonel Pye does not know the reason of it. Admiral Arbuthnot only mentions the fact in a private Letter.

PALL MALL, *October* 16^th 1779 $\frac{m}{15}$ *pt* 10 A.M.

No. 2803—*Lord Amherst to the King.*

I have this moment received Your Majesty's Commands. I am humbly of opinion, that from the preparations of the Enemy, it is not proper to determine on any fixed time for Your Majesty's Troops in Ireland being put into Cantonment: The end of this month appears to be too early a Period, the intelligence of the Camps being broke up will be an inducement to the Enemy to pursue their Point. I have ceased thinking of the North Gloucester Battalion, and as I wrote this morning to L^{t} General Pierson, as also to Lord Weymouth on the Subject, I humbly beg leave to enclose Copys of those Letters.

I had also wrote to The Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, and as I mentioned the Troops in Camp, I take the occasion of enclosing an Extract. AMHERST.

Near WHITHALL

16 P.M. *Oct* $\frac{1}{2}$ *after* 12 *o'Clock*

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2804—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

ADMIRALTY *Octo*: 17th 1779

Lord Sandwich cannot avoid troubling your Majesty with the two enclosed letters, one of which he recieved yesterday, the other this morning.

He hopes he shall not have incurred your Majesty's displeasure by having communicated to M^{r} Robinson in the utmost confidence the letter with which he was honoured yesterday; he well knows that anything he recieves in writing from your Majesty ought to be held sacred; but as this letter contained only one single point, and might give M^{r} Robinson an opportunity of working effectually in the execution of the measures your Majesty approves, especially as he was in private with M^{r} Jenkinson; L^{d} Sandwich thought it would be wrong to lose a moment in a business of such importance, especially as he knows how perfectly he can confide in M^{r} Robinsons discretion.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2805—*Lord Chancellor Thurlow to the King.*

Sir—Lord Gower communicated to Me, just as I was setting off to Bath, His conversation with Lord North. His Sentiments have since been laid more correctly before Your Majesty: But I understood His Step to have been occasioned more immediately by circumstances peculiar to the present situation of Things; although the general foundation of His Opinion had existed before, and given Him much concern; for I know no Man more Zealously disposed to support Your Majesty's Government, and the true constitution of His Country, than He is.

I don't presume to trouble Your Majesty with any thing so vain, as loose thoughts upon the general State of Things; because Your Majesty has been pleased to signify Your gracious Intention to honour me with further commands, when They shall have taken a more particular Shape.

The only returns, which are in my poor power to make for those favourable thoughts, which Your Majesty gratiously condescends to express towards Me, are my humblest Thanks, and most earnest Zeal for Your Majesty's Service, on every occasion, wherein My Zeal can forward it.

I am, Sir, Your Majesty's most dutiful Subject and faithful Servant Thurlow.

Bath. 17. *Oct*r 1779.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2806—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of informing his Majesty that he has written to Lord Stormont & Lord Carlisle upon the Subject which he had his Majesty's commands to mention to them. That he expects to see Lord Stormont on Thursday morning, &, probably, may see Lord Carlisle a day or two after, unless Lord Carlisle should do what he fears, viz, Send a negative immediately by letter.

Lord North does not believe that Lord Weymouth will resign, but his conversation with Lord North was very despond-

ing: He said that in obedience to His Majesty's absolute command, he would remain in his Majesty's Service, because he would be ready to sacrifice his Life upon that principle, but he kept his place contrary to his better judgement, & with a full conviction that the continuation of the present system would speedily produce the ruin of his Majesty's affairs. Lord North does not pretend to repeat any words of Lord Weymouth, but He thinks that the general purport of his conversation was to this effect.

Lord North's opinion is that Lord Weymouth will, from point of honour, & out of duty to his Majesty, remain in office, but that he will give no active assistance either in office or in Parliament to the course of government, & that this will be his conduct not from his wishing ill to the administration, but from his conviction that all we can do is in vain, & that nothing but a change of men can save the country.

Lord North is detain'd a day longer than he expected, but will be in Town on Wednesday night, &, after seeing Lord Stormont on Thursday morning, will pay his duty to his Majesty at S^{t} James's after the drawing room.

Woldashure *Oct*: 18. 1779.

No. 2807—*Mr. Jenkinson to the King.*

Addescombe Place,
Oct. 18th 1779.

M^{r} Robinson called on me here yesterday & gave me an account of Lord North's State of Mind, such as it is melancholy even to reflect on. I am persuaded however that He means to go on, if He can; but I am apprehensive that He will by Indecision create new Difficulties to Himself & add to the Embarrassements, to which your Majesty is at present exposed; I thought it my Duty to apprize your Majesty of this, especially as You will probably see Lord North on Wednesday, before I shall have an Opportunity of paying my Duty to You; & I humbly submit to your Majesty whether You would not think proper to call upon Lord North in the most serious manner to come to a Resolution one way or the other; & if he means to go on, to proceed without loss of time; to settle an Administration,

& tell Him that He is responsible, if Your Majesty's Affairs suffer any longer by His Indecision. When I pay my Duty to your Majesty on Wednesday, I will presume to tell your Majesty more of my thoughts on the present State of Affairs.

I have obey'd your Majesty's Orders by acquainting Co[l] Harcourt with your Gracious Intention to appoint Him to the Command of the Queen's Regiment of Light Dragoons; He was surprized with this Mark of your Majesty's Goodness & expressed the high Sense He had of the Favour confer[d] on Him; I hope He will be grateful & shew by His future Conduct & Attachment to your Majesty that He is deserving of it.

From Your Majesty's Dutyfull Subject C. JENKINSON.

No. 2808—*Mr. Robinson to the King.*

M[r] Robinson had the Honour to receive your Majesty's Commands yesterday Noon, and will on his part use every Exertion in obeying them.

M[r] Robinson humbly begs leave to mention to Your Majesty, that in the Conversations, M[r] Robinson has had the Honour to hold with the Lord Chancellor His Lordship has expressed himself, at different times, so strongly, and so decidedly, and with such Duty, grateful Attachment, and resolute Firmness, to devote his Services to the last Moment to Your Majesty, that M[r] Robinson hopes, he is justified, in supposing that his Lordship on receiving Your Majesty's Commands, will sincerely and heartily join in the Support of any Administration, that Your Majesty shall think fit to fform, which can give Strength to Your Majestys Government, and which will act with Energy and Vigour; and M[r] Robinson will not fail to take the first Moment after Your Majestys other Commands have been executed to have a full and explicit Conversation with M[r] Rigby. M[r] Robinson has the Honour to transmit to Your Majesty, a Letter from Sir Richard Heron, received late last Night, with an Account of the transactions at the Meeting of the Irish Parliament, and also two Letters from M[r] Beresford; M[r] Robinson has received no Letter by the Messenger from the Attorney General of Ireland. The Letter from Lord Buckinghamshire to Lord North is gone down

to him in Kent, being marked Private it was carried after Lord North, who will be in town again to morrow Night.

SYON HILL
18th Octe 1779—
30 M p 8 P:M:

Mr Robinson has the Honour to send several American News papers received by him.

No. 2809—*Mr. Robinson to the King.*

It is with inexpressible Concern that Mr Robinson submitts to your Majesty's perusal the private Letters received by him containing so very disagreeable Accounts of the State of Ireland, but as his Duty to your Majesty is ever the first Principle of his Heart, and his Sentiments lead him to think that Your Majesty should have every Information relative to that Country, to attain a Knowledge of the true State of it, and to enable Your Majesty to meet the Difficulties with that Wisdom and Firmness which ever so remarkably attends Your Majesty ; He presumes to transmit such Letters to Your Majesty, and hopes that he shall not do wrong, which ever is his anxious Study to avoid to the utmost of his Abilities.

Mr Robinson therefore sends a Letter which he received by yesterday's post from the Attorney General of Ireland for Your Majesty's perusal, and he begs leave also to add two Irish News papers as they tend to develope the principles of the times, and Mr Robinson shall continue regularly to send them as received if not disagreeable.

SYON HILL
20th Octe 1779
10o A:M:

No. 2810—*The King to Lord North.*

I hope Ld. North has given notice to Ld. Stormont and to Ld Weymouth of his desire that the arrangement of the Seals may not take place till Wednesday ; for it would appear strange

in me to Stop it after I had notified it to both of them Yesterday agreable to Ld North's own wish.

S^{T} James's
Oct 22^{d} 1779.
$\frac{m}{46}$ p^{t} M.

No. 2811—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North, having just received the news of the Duke of Queensberry's death, has the honour of informing his Majesty, that Lord Stormont wrote to him a few days ago to desire that, in case of this event, he would lay his humble duty before his Majesty & request that he may succeed to the Office of Lord Justice General of Scotland.

Lord North humbly begs leave to add that he thinks Lord Stormont from his age, character, & standing in his Majesty's service, as well intitled to the office as any person who is likely to be a candidate for it.

Lord North has the honour of adding that he hears that the Duke of Northumberland would have no objection to a great office about his Majesty, & would be well pleased to succeed the late Duke of Ancaster as Master of the Horse. Lord North does not mention this of his own knowledge, & can only speak of it as a report. His reason for saying any thing of it at present is, that the Duke of Northumberland at court made an appointment wth Lord North to call upon him on Saturday next when it is possible that his Grace may intend to discover his sentiments.

Downing Street *Oct* 22. $\frac{1}{2}$ p^{t} 4 *o'clock* [1779].

No. 2812—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of inclosing a letter he has just received from the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. He does not think it would be justifiable or, at least, wise to return more favourable Answers to the Irish Addresses than those which have been prepared, although he doubts whether in the idea of the Lord Lieutenant they will be favourable enough.

Oct: 23. 1799.

No. 2813—*The King to Lord North.*

WINDSOR CASTLE *Oct* 23^{d} 1779.

There never was a clearer position than that stated in Lord North's note that it would not be justifiable or [at] least wise to return more favourable Answers to the Addresses of the Irish Houses of Parliament than what has been signed this day by me; the Lord Lieut. of Ireland seems alone to weigh his own personal difficulties and to forget what is owing to his Natative [*sic*] Country.

No. 2814—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of informing his Majesty, that Lord Carlisle has accepted the honour which his Majesty intends for him, with many expressions of duty & attachment to his Majesty.

Wednesday 27th [*October*] 1779.

No. 2815—*Mr. Jenkinson to the King.*

[? *October*, 1779.]

I presume to trouble your Majesty with the Inclosed Papers for your Royal Signature as they are very numerous & I imagine it will be less inconvenient to your Majesty than to bring them to You in your Court.

Our Majority last night was even more than I expected; & I know that the Spirits of Opposition are very much depressed thereby. They had the presumption to divide Spoil; There had been a Contest between M^{r} C. Fox & M^{r} Tho^{s} Townshend, who should be Paymaster; at last M^{r} Fox gave way & instead thereof He was to be Chancellour of the Exchequer; I heard all this from more than one Quarter & particularly from M^{r} Caswall the Deputy Paymaster, which accounts fully for the Change of Sentiment in His Principal.

Nothing would be more Hostile, than the Conduct, which Admiral Keppel & Lord How held yesterday: I am convinced they must be consider^{d} as Enemies. M^{r} D'Oyly & M^{r} Strachy,

who are to be consider[d] as Lord How's Friends, were both present some part of the day, but neither voted.

S[r] James Lowther differ[d] from His Friends & did not vote; M[r] Johnson went away.

Lord North spoke exceedingly well; Lord Mulgrave spoke better than the day before; but there still wanted more & better Defense on the part of the Admiralty.

The Country Gentlemen behaved very handsomely & M[r] Viner made a short Speech which was of great Use.

Both the Brothers of the Duke of Marlborough went away & yet they were both at the House today.

Lord Rockingham, the Duke of Portland & the Duke of Manchester attended as usual.

I wish Lord North could be prevail[d] on to be particularly civil to the Independent Gentlemen, who came on this occasion from a great Distance.

I thought I might presume to mention these Circumstances to your Majesty, as it was necessary for me to send your Majesty a Box.

From your Majesty's Dutyfull Subject C. Jenkinson.

20. *m. past* 9.

No. 2816—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

St. James's, *Novr.* 1. 1779.

$\frac{m}{4.}$ *O* P.M.

Your Majesty will I hope excuse the liberty I take of laying before You the first Draught of the intended Letter to the Empress of Russia. as it is a Matter of some Difficulty and liable to Inconvenience if improperly drawn, I thought it my Duty to submit it to Yr Maj[tys] Considerat[n] before it is communicated to the Cabinet It struck me Sir that a Letter of Mere Compliment would be productive of No Good, and that therefore it would be proper to make it so far a Letter of Business as to give a chance of drawing some favorable specific Declaration from the Empress in Her Answer to Y[r] Majesty at the same Time it was necessary that this should be done in such a Manner as to make this Step which is out of the usual Course of Business liable to as little

Inconvenience as possible if either Now or at any future Period an improper use should be made of it. The General Temper and Disposition of the Russian Cabinet seem to make this Precaution very necessary.

No. 2817—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North is very sorry that he will not be able to have the honour of paying his duty to-day at St. James's having been detained for two hours by a most material and perplexing public distress arising from the vast quantity of bills drawn at New York & Quebec upon Messrs. Harley & Drummond, the greatest part of which will become due before Xmas, a very great part indeed before the meeting of Parliament and there has not as yet occurd any method of paying them.

Downing Street. *Nov. 3rd* [1779].

No. 2818—*Mr. Jenkinson to the King.*

When I came home yesterday I found that the Attorney General had been to call on me ; I thought it right after dinner to return His Visit & was immediately let in. I found Him in very good Humour ; for some time our Conversation did not turn upon Political Subjects, but at last He begun ; after painting in strong Colours the Difficulties of the Time. He told me he had taken two Resolutions, the one was—*not to resign* ; the other was *not to have any personal Intercourse with Lord North* : He said much against Lord North both on publick & private grounds. He agreed that it would not be right to do any thing to destroy or make any change in the present Government till there was a prospect of substituting a better in its place founded on the same principles ; but as He is a great Negociator, I could observe that He thought this not so difficult as some might imagine. He told me He had seen the Chancellour with whom He had had some conversation, & who had said that He did not know whether Lord Weymouth would resign or not, as He had not had any talk with Him upon it, but that He was of opinion that He ought not ; I conceive that much more past

between them, & I think thay are well together. He told me he had seen Lord Gower; & I found they had had a great deal of conversation together; He endeavoured to justify Lord Gower in the Step He had taken; but I remember He added that Lord Weymouth would not have the same ground for Resignation; This, I confess, I did not understand; but it convinced me that the Attorney did not wish for Lord Weymouth's Resignation or a Change of Government in the present Moment. I begin however to think that there is a Plot forming to get wholly rid of Lord North; How many are as yet concern[d] in this, I will not presume to say; but it is probable that some of great Consideration in your Majesty's Government incline to this; & as occasions offer, they will declare themselves. The Conference which your Majesty will have with the Chancellour will profitably throw some Light on this, especially if your Majesty should think proper to urge Him to a full Disclosure of His opinions. Though the Attorney is ambitious & fretfull, yet He is, I think good humour[d] & pliable & might I am perswaded be induced to take an active part in support of your Majesty's Government by means of the Chancellour. He did not drop a Word to me of what Lord North apprehends so much viz his Intention to call on His Lordship to make good His promise of recommending Him to the Office of Chief Justice, & I will not believe that of Himself, He will ever take that step. I conclude also from some things He said, that Lord Gower is not satisfied with Lord Carlisle's acceptance of the Office of First Lord of Trade, though He did not choose to express it as to prevent His accepting.

I thought it better to write all this to your Majesty than to come to Court and have an Audience, which might create suspicion; & as my Cold is rather worse, I want to go into the Country as soon as I have done my Business at my Office. I have left my Name at the Chancellour's door, but think it best not to call on Him again, unless He sends for me, which will, I think, probably happen; & if your Majesty has in this case any Instructions to give as to the Conduct & Conversation, I should hold, I will most faithfully obey them.

From Your Majesty's Dutyfull Subject C. Jenkinson.

Parl[t] Street
Nov[r] 4th, 10 *o'Clock* [1779].

No. 2819—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

St. James's. *Thursday Night, Nov.* 4 [1779]. *Eleven o'clock.*

Your Majesty will find some few alterations in the Drt to the Empress of Russia Upon further Reflexion it appeared to me improper to refer to the Interview with the Empress as that Interview was kept secret from A Person who some time or other will be acquainted with Yr Majesty's Letters I thought too Sr that the compliment at the end with respect to Her Impl Majesty's *Intervention* was conceived in Terms that if known would displease at Vienna and were not strictly conformable to the Language held to that Court. Such of the Dispatches as I have marked to have been read at the Cabinet were approved. The Private and Most Confidential were not read there. The sum mentioned in the Private Letter was what appeared reasonable to Ld North considering the peculiar Circumstances of Sr J. Harris Situation and the Extra Expence He had been forced to incur.

The Meeting broke up too late to trouble Yr Majesty with the Dispatches to Night but they will be sent early tomorrow and if Yr Majesty approves it is proposed that Sr J. Harris & Servant should be redispatched tomorrow evening.

No. 2820—*The King to Lord Weymouth.*

Kew. *Nov. 5th*, 1779.

[*Endorsed* $\frac{m}{50}$ *pt* 6 P.M.]

I owe it to my own feelings as well as to the Public, to try to persuade Lord Weymouth not to fly from Public business at an hour of difficulty, and at a time when the most desperate Opposition that ever stood forth is using every means to force itself into power, and is willing to betray every National object. I do not mean to combat Lord Weymouth's dislike of so Executive an Office as that of Secretary of State, which I believe is greatly encreased by a diffidence of the possibility of the present Ministers carrying on any longer the Public business, therefore I shall not press him on that head ; but surely the same objection

cannot lie against the Presidency of the Council; this never was looked upon as so responsible a situation, yet it would remove the appearance of any concert with Lord Gower, and would greatly alieviate my own mind, I beg He will with composure weigh the whole and try whether his Attachment to Me will not over ballance the project of entirely retiring from my Service.

I should hope Lord Weymouth will view the Letters to the Peers for their Attendance at the Opening of the Session as a matter of course and will therefore order them to be prepared.

Draft, and fair copy.

No. 2821—*Lord Weymouth to the King.*

EALING. *Nov. 6th*, 1779
$\frac{m}{45}$ *past One* P.M.

The honor of Your Majesty's note, & the very gracious expressions in it, add greatly to the uneasiness which I too much felt before. But Your Majesty may be assured that it is not a sudden project of retiring which has made me take the step which I had the honor of laying before Your Majesty yesterday: it was after the most mature consideration, & the greatest struggles with my own mind, that I found I could not avoid it. I shall always be ready not only to express but to shew every attachment to Your Majesty's person and service, & it is upon the fullest conviction that my remaining at present in office can be of use to neither, that I must lay myself at Your Majesty's feet, & most humbly implore Your permission to retire. The responsibility of the office of Secretary of State is not the objection to it, & the Presidency of the Council or any other Cabinet Office must be consider'd as equally responsible, but if there were any difference between them in that respect, I must humbly submit to Your Majesty's consideration how far it would be for the honor or benefit of your service, that a person should be in a high employment in it, who had quitted his former Office merely to avoid the responsibility of it. I must rely on Your Majesty's goodness, which I have often experienced to excuse this measure which arises from a mind deeply impress'd with the firmest attachment to Your Majesty, & convinc'd that, in the

present circumstances, it is for the benefit of Your Majesty's service. [*Unsigned.*]

Endorsed by the King.
A Copy in the King's handwriting.

No. 2822—*The King to Lord North.*

WINDSOR CASTLE. *Nov.* 7*th* 1779.

I enclose the draft of my letter to Lord Weymouth and his answer; Lord North will see I used the most forcible arguments to persuade but they have proved of no avail. I desire He will before Wednesday have a full and cordial conversation with the Chancellor this night to know what Effect this fresh defection has on his mind, besides in his high Office he ought to be early informed of Your ideas as to the most Efficient means of Supplying the two Vacancies. Lord Stormont Ought to be apprised of my having directed Lord Weymouth to write the usual Summonses to the Peers, to which I have received no answer, that if they are not preparing in that Office, he may without further loss of time prepare them in His.

Draft, endorsed by the King.

No. 2823—*Mr. Jenkinson to the King.*

ADDISCOMBE PLACE
*Nov*r 7*th*, 1779
6 *o'clock.*

I feel myself highly honour[d] with your Majesty's very gracious Communication of what has passed since Wednesday; I cannot say that I approve of the Conduct of Lord Gower, Lord Weymouth or even the Chancellour; The two first desert your Majesty in the Moment of Difficulty & Danger; By their Resignation they render that Administration still weaker, which they declare to be too Weak already to carry on the Business of Government, & yet they point out no Method of making it stronger, or of forming a new one upon any Principles, which they can or ought to approve. Your Majesty has been pleased to make all possible offers and Concessions; and they do not suggest that

there is any further for your Majesty to do, by which this End can be attain[d]. The Chancellour's Coldness & Unwillingness to speak out is to me inconceivable. If He has any Meaning (& I am not sure that would satisfie Him) it is that your Majesty should declare that You are ready to give up Lord North, Lord Sandwich, & Lord G. Germain; and in return for this your Majesty may gain the Duke of Grafton, Lord Shelborne & Lord Cambden; for it does not appear that even these Concessions would gain any part of the Rockinghams, or that the Chancellour himself would act with them, if they could be gain[d]. I do not wonder if your Majesty feels great Uneasyness & Dissatisfaction on all these Accounts; but I humbly submit to your Majesty that in the present state of things I would not mark this in the least Degree; I would be very civil to Lords Gower & Weymouth, and I would again & again press the Chancellour to be more explicite than He has hitherto been. I will confess to your Majesty that I have a very bad Opinion of the present State of things, I doubt whether after these Defections the Administration can go on, but I highly approve of your Majesty's conduct in every thing you have said & done, of your Resolution to resist the Evil as long as you possibly can—and of your Determination to convince the World that whatever may happen, is not owing to Want of Fortitude in your Majesty or of Attachment to those Principles, which You approve. I always think, that when a Man pursues this Line of Conduct Providence will support Him & lead Him out of the Difficulties, in which He is involved.

I will call on the Chancellour to-morrow morning & give Him all fair Opportunities of conversing with Me; I think in the End He will desire it; but I apprehend it would not be right directly to appoint a Meeting with Him.

I have no doubt that Lord North will endeavour to go on, & I very much approve of Lord Shelbourne's Resolution, which is a very good Sumptom [*sic*].

The Attorney call[d] on me this morning; He told me of Lord Weymouth's Intention to resign, which He call[d] a new Event, He had heard it from the Chancellour and from Mr. Macdonald, to whom Lord Gower had told it; I see that the Chancellour is on a better Footing with the Attorney than I should have conceived; The Chancellour gave Him some general Information of what had passed at His Audience, but not the particulars;

He said that your Majesty was in good Spirits ; This I dare say alluded to what your Majesty said to Him when He first came into the Room ; He complained of the Conversation of His Friends, particularly of Lord Gower, Lord Carlisle and Mr. Rigby ; which tended too much to disclose the State of Things. The Attorney was in perfect good Humour & is I am sure, under Apprehensions of the Administration coming to an End.

I return to your Majesty the two Papers which You were so good as to send me.

I forgot to say that the Attorney told me that nothing would satisfie Opposition but a Sacrifice of Lord North, Lord Sandwich, & Lord G. Germaine ; This corresponds strangely with what Your Majesty heard from another Quarter.

From Your Majesty's Dutyfull Subject C. Jenkinson.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2824—*The King to Mr. Jenkinson.*

Windsor Castle. *Nov. 7th.* 1779.

On Thursday the Chancellor was at the Drawing Room after wich I sent for him, and laughingly said I had done so because he had run away the only time he had been at St. James's since his return from Bath without having seen me in private. I then explained the having had nothing new to communicate since my letter, that Lord Gower had not pointed out the most distant shaddow of the means of forming a more efficient Ministry that till that was produced by someone, I could not think of parting with what I had ; that indeed it would ever be highly grating to my feelings to part with any that I might think had served me well, but if any Advantage to the Public could accrue from such a step I would submit to it ; but then it must be coalition with my administration not the yeilding the reins of Government to Opposition, I must be sure that measures should not be changed. He said a coalition with this Administration in his Opinion could not be effected ; that indeed He was quite unacquainted with the private Sentiments of Opposition but from their Public Inauguration should suppose the D. of Grafton, Lord Shelburne and Lord Camden not desirous of declaring America Independent, but resolved to be no part of a system

with Ld. Sandwich, Ld. G. Germain and Ld. North; that as to the Rockinghams they seemed to yeild everything to America. In short He could not be brought to speak out; but wished I should examine whether the present Administration would subsist any longer. Lord Weymouth has since declared his intention of resigning I send Copies of my letter in consequence of the language he had held to me on friday and his answer. Undoubtedly the Bedfords want to drive out Lord North, yet I do not believe they have any plan to offer, indeed they have owned they have none. I therefore must get Lord North if possible to go on, he seems inclined to it, and Lord Stormont is not startled by this fresh defection; the ground I stand on is so fair that I do not despair of Success but if I am not to prosper I would much rather be beat in Parliament, than see everything ruined by an ignominious treaty with Opposition.

I have here so fully stated my state of mind that it will enable Mr. Jenkinson to hold the language most proper to the Chancellor, and I should hope he will find an opportunity before Wednesday. I have acquainted Lord North with the failure of my negociation with Lord Weymouth and have strongly proposed his having a full and confidential Conversation with the Chancellor.

Draft, endorsed by the King.

No. 2825—*Mr. Jenkinson to the King.*

ADDISCOMBE PLACE.
Nov^r 8th, 1779.

I called on the Chancellour this morning, & He afterwards came to my Office, where I had a long conversation with Him. He has neither seen nor heard any thing from Lord North except at their Weekly Dinner & He said He was persuaded He would not send to Him to have any confidential Conversation with Him. He spoke in perfect Temper, but He represented Lord North's conduct as very bad indeed and mentioned some Circumstances, of which I had never been apprized. He knew nothing of the last Transaction between your Majesty & Lord Weymouth; He said that so far from being surprized at His & Lord Gower's resignation, He wonder^d it had not happened

long before. He spoke very handsomely of both of them but blamed the Indolence of Lord Weymouth. He said more than once that He did not think that Lord North would meet the Parliament; in which I disagree with Him; and if He did meet it, He thought He would be beat on some personal Question. I pressed Him earnestly to consider whether some Accession would not be obtain[d]; & I urged this in a Variety of Ways, observing that Lord Gower & Lord Weymouth ought first to have tried this; and not to have resigned unless your Majesty had declined some Proposition that appeared to them to be reasonable; but if the Opposition was unreasonable they ought on that account to have clung the closer to your Majesty's Government; as well as I could collect His opinion from a long Conversation it was as follows:—

That it was very difficult to find Men of Ability any where —that there was no treating with the Rockinghams for various reasons—that it might be profitable to treat with the Duke of Grafton & Lord Cambden, & with Lord Shelborn & perhaps with the Duke of Rutland; not that He knew any thing of their Opinions that could be depended on; They would probably insist on the Exclusion of some of your Majesty's present Government, & of bringing in the Rockingham's with them, though they would not agree long & a Government so formed would not probably be of long duration. He seem[d] to have an utter Disinclination to be himself a Negociator; that He was unfit for it; that He was totally ignorant of Persons and Characters —that such a Business subjected a Man to Imputations, particularly of Ingratitude; that it was on this account that He had spoken up [more] openly to your Majesty than He should otherwise have done.

He is determined to go on; though He repeated that He did not think Lord North would meet the Parliament; He spoke favourably of Lord Stormont; He said He knew nothing of Lord Hilsborough, but He did not object to Him. This was the general Outline of our Conversation; If I recollect any further particulars, I will tell them to your Majesty, when I pay my Duty to you on Wednesday.

From Your Majesty's Dutifull Subject C. Jenkinson.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2826—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

St. James's. *Nov^r* 9. 1779
$\frac{m}{3}$ o P.M.

The Drt. to Mr. Eden could not be laid before Your Majesty yesterday as it arose from an unexpected Conversat^n with Monsieur de Dryer who came to me after the Messenger was dispatched. It makes me exceedingly happy to find that the Drts. to S^r R. Keith have met with Your Majesty's Gracious approbation.

No. 2827—*Lord North to the King.*

The Lord Chancellor having appointed to Meet Lord North today at two o'clock, Lord North is afraid, he shall not be able to pay his duty to his Majesty till half an hour after three when he imagines the Lord Chancellor will have left him: He has the honour of returning his Majesty's letter to Lord Weymouth with Lord Weymouth's answer.

Downing Street. *Nov.* 10. 1779

No. 2828—*Mr. Jenkinson to the King.*

Addiscombe Place.
Novr. 11th, 1779.

I came to St. James's today in order to pay my Duty to your Majesty, but seeing the Lord Chancellour & Lord North there, whose Audiences would probably be very long, besides Lord George Germaine, I thought it right not to trouble your Majesty. I will presume therefore to put upon Paper some things which I intend to tell your Majesty.

Lord Mansfield had frequently called on me, I went therefore to his House yesterday Evening. He was out, but had ordered Himself to be sent for in case I came; I saw Him therefore & had a long & confidential Conversation with Him: The general purport of which was that He lamented the present

State of Affairs & particularly your Majesty's Situation; He blamed the conduct of Lord Gower & Lord Weymouth in resigning; He said that if they thought the Government weak, instead of doing this, they should have apprized Your Majesty of it, and have assisted You in forming a stronger. He said that the best thing that could now be done, was to induce them to remain in their present Situations till after Christmas, so as to afford time to negociate & to form some Coalition; He was of opinion that the Chancellour was the proper person to be employ^{d} in the Negociations; Upon hearing of Lord Weymouth's Negociation, he had gone to the Chancellour on Monday and had talked a great deal with Him; He told me that Lord Gower had wished to see Him in order to tell Him His Story, but that He had only had a short conversation with Him at St. James's on this day sen'night. Though Lord Mansfield was alarmed He was in better spirits, than I should have expected, & appear^{d} to be very well disposed.

This morning the Attorney General called on me; He had learn^{d} very little since I saw Him on sunday; He did not even know whether Lord Weymouth's resignation was determined; All He told me was that Opposition instead of being in high spirits were in low, probably alarm^{d} at the Melancholy State of Things, to which they had so much contributed.

I afterwards saw Mr. Robinson who told me that Lord North thought that things would not do, that His Spirits had been a little raised, by the prospect of gaining Lord How; for Mr. Doyley had been with Mr. Robinson, & had told Him, that Lord How, he was persuaded, was ready to take the Command of the Fleet; that He did not desire to be Lieut-General of Marines, but thought that S^{r} Chas. Hardy should retire to that; He did not say a Word of the Admiralty but desired to connect Himself with Lord North *only*. Mr. Robinson was of opinion that Lord Sandwich wished to go from the Admiralty to the Office of Secretary of State; that Lord Dartmouth prefer^{d} being Privy Seal, to that of being President, though He would take it if Lord North desired it; & He added, though I pay but little Credit to this last assertion, that He was persuaded the Attorney General wanted still to be Secretary of State.

I saw Lord North afterwards, He appear^{d} to me to be in a good deal of Vigour of Mind & Spirits, though He told me, He

had just received a very unpleasant Letter from the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland.

I afterwards called on Lord Gower; who was in exceeding good Humour. He had heard yesterday from Lord Weymouth his absolute Determination to resign; He said he must part with the Seals some time before Parliament met but Lord Gower did not say a word of His desire to be out of His Office at any particular time. He then said I hear that you intend to meet Parliament, intimating that He did not expect that the present Administration would have ventured to do it. He then told me he had seen the Duke of Grafton, and had a long conversation with Him. He told Him that if Opposition thought of forming an Administration but upon a broad Bottom, it would never do; & that if one should be form^{d} consisting only of themselves, He should Himself be forced in time to oppose it. The Duke of Grafton said, He had no such thought, He should be against such a Plan himself; that there were many persons in the present Administration whom He respected very much; that though He disapproved of many parts of Lord North's political Conduct, He thought Him an honest Man; His Grace directed His principal wrath against Lord Amherst & in some respects against the Admiralty, for that the ablest officers in the two Professions were not employ^{d}; Lord Gower told me that He defended the Appointment of Lord Amherst as the properest that could be made, though He had not given satisfaction since; that He defended the Appointment of S^{r} Chas. Hardy, that He insisted that Adm^{r} Keppel was not popular with the Nation at large, & that S^{r} Wm How though He was a gallant Man, had not shewn the Talents of a great General. He assured me that the Duke of Grafton was in the best State of Mind & Temper imaginable if He was not afterwards perverted; He added, that as He now considered Himself as being out of Administration, He could talk to People freely, and hoped to be able to serve your Majesty & the Publick by conciliating Men's Minds & inducing them to act together in your Majesty's Service, which He should make it His Business to do. He wish^{d} that Parts of the Opposition could know from some Authoritative Quarter, that your Majesty had no Objection to them personally;—that if there was to be any Treaty or any thing to be said, the Chancellour was the proper Person to be employ^{d} I am con-

vinced there is a more Intimate Connection between Him and the Chancellour than between any two of the Bedfords. I thought it right to apprize your Majesty of all this, as it may assist your Judgment in the present Critical State of Affairs.

From Your Majesty's Dutyfull Subject C. JENKINSON.

No. 2829—*Mr. Jenkinson to the King.*

ADDISCOMBE PLACE
Nov^r. 12th, 1779
10 *o'Clock.*

I had written to your Majesty the Inclosed last night; I have this morning heard from Mr. Robinson who tells me *that the Chancellour & Lord North had a Conference last night, that He thinks it was not yet determined to negociate, but that some further Conversations were to be had today*; And Mr. Robinson adds nothing more.

From your Majesty's Dutyfull Subject, C. JENKINSON.

No. 2830—*Mr. Jenkinson to the King.*

ADDISCOMBE PLACE.
Nov^r 12*th*. 1779
7 *o'Clock.* P.M.

I have just received the Letter, with which your Majesty has been graciously pleased to honour me. Your Majesty appears to me to have acted with the greatest prudence in all that passed with the Chancellour & Lord North. I do not conceive that it is possible to put this Business in a better Footing; I am persuaded now that there will be no Negociation & if the present Government continues, Lord North & Lord Chancellour must give it their utmost Support, & the latter must justifie the continuance of it to His Friends, for it will continue upon His Advice. This is exactly the Point, to which I wished this Business to be brought.

Lord North has, in the conduct of this affair, acted, I think, handsomely; but what has now passed, has confirmed me in the Opinion I have always entertained that notwithstanding all he says, he means to support His own Government as long as he possibly can.

There is a Degree of Caution in the Chancellour's conduct, which I do not perfectly comprehend, & is I think not very reconcileable with what He & His Friends say & think of Lord North.

From your Majesty's Dutyfull Subject C. JENKINSON.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2831—*Mr. Robinson to the King.*

WHITEHALL 13 *Nov*^{r} 1779

Captain Sharpe of the 70th Regiment is this Afternoon arrived from Halifax which He left on the 18th of October in the Nottingham Ordnance Storeship.

On the 13th of October a Schooner arrived at Halifax in eight Days from New York as Colonel Bruce, the Commanding Officer at Halifax informed Captain Sharpe. Captain Sharpe saw Letters and Newspapers from New York, he is sure as late as the 30th of September, He thinks as late as the 1st or 2nd of October. They were expecting Mr. destaing upon the Coast of America, & though they thought his destination was Southward, towards Georgia, & to protect Charles Town, yet they were making all possible preparation for their Defence at New York, in case they should be attacked, and it was understood that the Troops were to be withdrawn from Rhode Island, but they were perfectly confident of being able to make a successful Defence at New York, & in that respect all the Letters spoke in the same strain. In one of these Letters from a Captain Skinner of New York to Major Hicks at Halifax it was stated that the Way in which they had obtained Information at New York of Mr. destaing's being bound for the Coast of America was by a Privateer which had captured a Spanish Ship off the Bahamas, but does not say when, & this Spanish Ship had Two Days before left Mr. destaing off these Islands steering for the Coast of America. Captain Sharpe does not know the Day the Privateer arrived at New York. the Name of the Captain of the Privateer was Ross.

Lord North approved of this Information being sent to His Majesty.

No. 2832—*Mr. Robinson to the King.*

Mr. Robinson has the Honour to submit to Your Majesty several Drafts of Letters to Sir Henry Clinton, Mr. Wier, and the Commanders of Your Majesty's Troops in the West India Islands, and in West Florida.

Syon Hill
14^{th} *Nov*^{r} 1779
30/*m p* 1^{o} P.M.

No. 2833—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

St. James's. *Nov*^{r} 15. 1779
$\frac{M}{5}$ P.M.

I take the first opportunity of acquainting your Majesty that according to Intelligence which I accidentally got last Night and which I think deserves some degree of Credit tho it is far from being certain. The french Ministers are greatly alarmed abt. Count Destaing, as the News brought by two Vessels arrived in different Ports of France is that his whole fleet was not only dispersed in a Violent Gale of Wind, but so much damaged as to be totally unfit for Service and some of the ships scarce able to keep above water. My Intelligence does not mention the Names of the Ships that brought this News nor the places or dates of their arrival.

The combined fleet had not sailed from Brest the 5th Instant.

May I be permitted to express to your Majesty my surprize at an article that I have just read in a Letter of Ct. Malzahn, in which he says that I told M. Simolin that I knew how little Influence the Court of Vienna had at Madrid & Versailles. I certainly did not say a single syllable to that effect. What I did say was that I was persuaded that the Dispositions of France and Spain were not pacific, & that no fair words from any Quarter whatever would alter those Dispositions, which could only be changed by the Powerful Intervention of Those who upon Every Principle of Wisdom and Sound Policy ought to endeavour to frustrate the ambitious Designs of the House of Bourbon.

No. 2834—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of writing to his Majesty upon a subject on which he intended to trouble him before, but he was always interrupted by business of a more important & urgent nature. Lord North has received the most pressing applications to lay before his Majesty a request in favour of Captain Johnston a very old officer in the Marines, who wishes to be appointed Major in Col. Whyte's new regiment. It seems that Captain Johnston is a very skilful Officer at forming a regiment. He disciplined & commanded two batallions of Marines for a considerable time in America. Lieut. Col. Whyte who was a witness to the excellences of those corps, is very desirous of having Capt. Johnston to assist in forming and disciplining his regiment. Lord Percy prefers it with an inconceivable earnestness, as a particular favour & obligation to himself, & seems to have it so much at heart, that Lord North believes that his political good or ill-humour will greatly depend upon it, altho he must do Lord Percy the justice to say, that there is not the most distant hint of his mixing any consideration of that nature with his solicitations. Lord Percy, Lt. Col. Whyte & Capt. Johnston hope that the rule which excludes marine officers from the line except in particular cases, may be dispensed with in a new Corps, & in favour of an Officer of long standing, who has served much on shore, & has been much approved by his superiors. Lord Sandwich spoke of him to Ld. North in the highest terms, & mentioned two or three late instances in which Marines Officers had been promoted in the Line. Lord North, upon all these circumstances, takes the liberty of laying the matter before his Majesty, and of soliciting his royal favour for Mr. Johnston.

Lord North has received a message from the Attorney General summoning him to perform his promise of recommending him to be Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, & a Peer. Undoubtedly, if the Attorney should quit, or withhold his support at this time, it would greatly add to the heavy burthen that is at present almost too much for Lord North to bear. Lord North believes, however, that for many reasons, the Att^{y} Gen^{l} cannot wish to separate himself from government at this time. It would be neither for his interest or his honour, but

Lord North can not deny the promise, which he repeatedly made. he is obliged to mention the Att^{y} Gen^{ls} letter to his Majesty, but takes the liberty, at the same time to say that, if his Majesty would admit the Att^{y} Gen^{l} to an audience, &, after expressing the importance of his continuing in the H^{o} of Commons to his Majesty's service, would give him hopes of a peerage if he succeeds in a regular course to one of the great places in the Law, & of being remember'd & secur'd, if the administration should be overthrown, Lord North believes, that the Att^{y} would return to give an active & cordial support, which, indeed, is the wisest part he can act for himself.

Lord North will have the honour of speaking to his Majesty again upon this subject when he comes to Town. He has look'd over the state of the H^{o} of Commons, & believes that, if the Country gentlemen will attend, there will be certainly a good majority on the side of Government before Christmas, but the party of government must be shaken by the retreat of Lord Gower & Lord Weymouth, & the Majority of votes, unless it is well supported by speakers, will sink in the course of the Sessions.

Bushey Park. *Nov^{r}* 15, 1779.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2835—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

St. James's. *Nov^{r}* 16, 1779.

$\frac{M}{40.}$ *p. two* P.M.

The last of the six Dutch Mails is just arrived. Tho' it is past the usual Hour of troubling your Majesty, yet the very disagreeable news from Holland seems of too great Importance not to be instantly laid before you, especially as this untoward Business being now brought to a Crisis some Resolution must be taken without Delay. It would ill become Me Sir to venture a hasty opinion upon a Business of this Magnitude, yet, as it is My Duty to lay my Sentiments before Y^{r} Majesty as they arise in my own Mind, I will not dissemble that Sir J. Yorkes Reasoning seems to me to carry great weight with it, and that I much doubt whether any real advantage can be derived from Moderation which those who receive the Benefit of it attribute to Weakness and Fear.

No. 2836—*Mr. Robinson to the King.*

Mr. Robinson has the Honour to submit to Your Majesty by Lord North's Directions Copies of Lord North's Letters to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland; Also a Copy of a Letter wrote, with Lord North's Approbation, by Mr. Robinson, to Sir Richard Heron, which Letters Lord North agrees, Mr. Robinson shall lay before the Lord Chancellor—Mr. Robinson begs leave also to add two Irish Newspapers containing some Accounts of the proceedings of the Irish House of Commons; and to submit to your Majesty for Your Majesty's Signature, if you shall think fit, two Warrants for Issues to Mess^{r} Harley and Drummond; The one for 212,287. 4. 0. is in the usual Course of Issues on Account of the Extraordinaries of the Army, to discharge Bills drawn from North America; The other Warrant for £25,000 & £1289. 8. 6. to pay Fees, is out of Your Majestys civil List, and is to be put on board Sir George Rodney under Orders to be carried to the West Indies, but is in fact for the secret expedition to be delivered at Gibraltar, under sealed orders to Sir George to be opened at Sea, for the pay of the Troops for Twelve months, and for any extraordinary services of the Garrison there. The Reason of such Issue being made out of Your Majesty's Civil List is, that the Army Money of this year being all exhausted, there is no other Fund for it at present but this Sum is to be repaid to the Civil List as soon as the Grants for the Army this year are made, and the New Money is raised, which Mode of providing for this Service it is hoped Your Majesty will not disapprove.

Syon Hill
16 *Nov^{r}* 1779.
15/*m p* 4^{o} P.M.

No. 2837—*Lord Amherst to the King.*

I most humbly submit to Your Majesty, as the Season is so far advanced, that The Dragoons may be ordered into their winter Quarters; and if it meets with Your Majesty's Approbation, I would immediately dispatch the Orders: I don't imagine

any discontent or displeasure will arise amongst that Corps, but as they are the first to suffer by the advanced Season, and can be more readily assembled than the Infantry, in case the Service should require it, I am humbly of opinion it may be best for Your Majesty's Service, to send them into their intended Quarters.

I beg leave to enclose a Letter I received from Lord Chancellor, last night, with a Copy of my answer thereto.

WHITEHALL 16*th* *November* 1779, 11 *o'Clock* P.M. AMHERST.

No. 2838—*Mr. Jenkinson to the King.*

I have heard nothing except that Lord Gower, Lord Weymouth, the Chancellor & Mr. Rigby dined alone together yesterday, and that the Chancellor went in the Evening to Lord North.

From Your Majesty's Dutyfull Subject, C. JENKINSON.

WAR OFFICE
*Nov*r 18*th*, 1779.

Mr. Robinson has been ill, but He is a great deal better.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2839—*Mr. Jenkinson to the King.*

PARLT STREET. *Nov*r 19th 1779
12 *o'Clock.*

It is probable that your Majesty heard yesterday from Ld North the general purport of the Conversation He had with the Chancellour the Evening before; I think it right however for your fuller Information to acquaint your Majesty that Lord North said to His Friends upon the Chancellour's leaving Him, that He (the Chancellour) had changed His Ground, since He was with Him the time before; that He endeavourd to intimidate Him, that He talkd of the Danger & Disgrace of reducing

your Majesty & your Government to be left with a Minority in both Houses of Parliament. He ask[d] Lord North if He thought Himself able to carry on the Government, when a rebellion in Ireland was added to our other Difficulties; He ask[d] Him also, whether He was sure that the Dundasses would vote with Him: This last Question your Majesty may be sure, was at the Suggestion of Mr. Rigby, whom the Chancellour had just left. I am more & more persuaded that it is the Plan of the whole of this Party to drive Lord North out of your Majesty's Service. Those who have resign[d] will act more openly; Those who do not choose to resign, will pursue other Methods; They will suffer some of their most distant Connections to vote against Him, & they will encourage them to talk against Him; They will never directly advise your Majesty to dismiss Lord North; but they will endeavour to make Lord North's leaving your Service to be your Majesty's *Act*, or His *own*; & for this purpose they will do every thing they can by representation & Intimidation. I humbly apprehend that your Majesty's Line of Conduct in this very critical Moment is clear, To be always for strengthening your Government with Men of Abilities & Character from any Party & to declare so, but never to be the Instrument for destroying your Majesty's present Ministry, till you see a Certainty of forming a new one better than the present, or of inducing by any Means Lord North to resign, unless from a sense of His Situation He makes it his own Choice. No Wise or Honest or Disinterested Man would advise the Distruction of an existing Government though Weak, in order to take the chance of forming a better, when things are brought into a State of Confusion. Lord North speaks in the highest Terms of the Paper your Majesty gave Him: He doubts whether the Bishop of Litchfield had not a Hand in it; He should think it to be Lord Mansfield's (as He says it is very much in His style) but He cannot conceive how Lord Mansfield could have been with your Majesty between the Wednesday Evening and the Thursday Evening, when He says it must have been drawn.

I asked whether Lord North was going on to fill up the vacant Offices, I was answer[d] in the negative, as He did not think it right to do so, while Affairs were in the present State of Uncertainty.

From Your Majesty's Dutyfull Subject C. Jenkinson.

No. 2840—*Lord North to the King.*

[? *November*, 1779.]

Lord North has the honour of inclosing for His Majesty's perusal some letters that he has just received from Ireland; by which his Majesty will perceive that the Mob are the Masters of Parliament, and that the Speaker, & the other Irish Politicians who have been stirring up the people have already raised the flame so high, that it is too strong for them to manage.

Lord North heard yesterday from the Chancellor, which he was surprized at, viz. an opinion of Mr. Robinson, which he did not recollect, &, therefore, denied to the Chancellor, but which, upon speaking to Mr. Robinson, he finds to be actually as the Chancellor stated it.

Mr. Robinson has very great reason to fear, that a motion will be made & carried in the H^{o} of Commons for calling Sir David Lindsay to the Bar, & enquiring into the State of Plymouth when the French Fleet appear^{d} off that place. What the attack is to be principally directed to, is the total want of necessaries, such as powder, match, Sloops & other utensils of the Artillery, which the enquirers will say the Army were forced to borrow of the Ships who could not spare them in any quantity: upon this ground the Motion will be introduced, & Mr. Robinson is afraid that not only the opposition, but the Country Gentlemen, especially the Militia Officers will join in the attack. If the question is carried it may be fatal to Government. Lord North will see if it can be prevented, but he really thinks it is one of the most alarming questions that he has remember^{d}.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2841—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 286.

Kew. *Nov. 20th.* 1779.

Before I had received Ld. North's letter I had read the Official letter from the Ld. Lieut. of Ireland to Ld. Weymouth on the very daring outrage at Dublin, and was sorry to see so little exertions either from Parliament or the Magistrates to quell

so violent an insurrection; perhaps this may open the eyes of Gentlemen and shew them that if they encourage such Assemblys that Kingdom must inevitably be ruined.

As to the idea of an enquiry into the State of Plymouth when the French Appeared before that place, I never doubted it would be brought up in Parliament. I wish to have no one plagued but I cannot see how some kind of examination into that affair can be prevented, and Ld. Amherst has always appeared to me ready to meet such an event, the affair relates to Him and the Ordnance, if they can defend themselves I do not see any evil can arise; if they have not done their duty it is right it should be known.

No. 2842—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

St. James. *Nov^r* 20, 1779.
$\frac{M}{12}$ *p. two* P.M.

The Letters now submitted to your Majesty are in consequence of the Deliberation of last night and agreeable to the Result of that Deliberation. It is a Business of great Nicety and was understood to be so, but it was the unanimous opinion that whatever the consequences may be the Resolution agreed to if it has your Majestys sanction is what the Dignity and essential Interests of this Country necessarily require.

If these Letters are approved by your Maj^ty it is proposed to send off the Messenger this evening with an order for an extra^ry Packet.

No. 2843—*Mr. Jenkinson to the King.*

Addiscombe Place.
Nov^r 20th. 1779
10 *o'Clock.*

As I think it right that your Majesty should in the present moment be inform^d of every thing that passes, I presume to send You the Inclosed letter, which I have just received from Mr. Robinson. Your Majesty will see therein the Language which Mr. Rigby thinks proper to hold; Whether all that He says is founded on Information or not the Turn of it is exactly what I expected. I pay but little Credit to Lord North's apprehensions

about the Attorney ; If He threatens at present, it is with a View to obtain some Security against the Storm which He sees arising ; I think it likely that when the Advocate comes to Town, He will act the same part.

From Your Majesty's Dutyfull Subject, C. JENKINSON.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2844—*Lord Weymouth to the King.*

Lord Suffolk does not know that Lord Weymouth has seen the last letters, there seems to be no objection to their being communicated to him, but if he should know that Lord Weymouth had seen them before he may be offended that he concealed it from him.

Nothing material hap'd yesterday, the Chancellor has undertaken to correct the Speech, & there is to be a Meeting on Sunday for the final settling of it.

Nov. 20th [1779] $\frac{m}{30}$ *past* 11 A.M.

No. 2845—*Lord North to the King.*

[? *November*, 1779.]

SIR—I find that the Attorney General was at S^{t} James's on Friday before I could be there & expected me. If your Majesty can give him hopes that He will be secured in the object of his ambition a Seat in the House of Lords with a place of Chief Justice as soon as your Majesty's affairs will permit you to allow him to quit the House of Commons or his Office of Attorney General, I believe he will give a cordial & zealous support without which, I am afraid your Majesty's affairs will go on ill in the House of Commons. When will your Majesty choose to appoint him to call upon you ? If your Majesty could appoint him before Wednesday & give him the promise I mentioned above I think he may be depended upon ; I should doubt otherwise whether he would not enter by degrees into some connexions that will render him at best a cool friend, if not an active enemy.

The Duke of Northumberland is at Bath, & no answer can be brought him before Wednesday. Would your Majesty have

an application made to him respecting the Presidency of the Council ? or would you rather choose that the offer should be made to Lord Bathurst, who would certainly accept ? I suppose that your Majesty would have me appoint Lord Hillsborough to receive the seals immediately.

I have no apprehensions in the present moment, but that, if your Majesty's government should fail in the midst of a Session, it would be imputed to me, & in that view, I mention[d] to your Majesty the fears that Mr. Robinson had outlined on the success of a question respecting Plymouth, which, I own, I consider in a much more important light than your Majesty, & conceive that (that question lost) others will be difficult to carry. I thought therefore, that it was right for me to state it to your Majesty.

I am extremely sorry to find that your Majesty thinks that great part of the present mischief is owing to my behaviour towards your Majesty's other servants, as I have had it principally in view to please them. What I have said of them, & how I have acted towards them in private, your Majesty knows, & you will certainly do me the justice to say that my conduct towards them in the closet has been just and friendly. They have always known all that I knew, unless I was forbid to communicate any thing to them which has been very seldom. I have never interfered in any of their departments. I have never clash'd with their views—but have promoted their interest as much as lay in my power on every occasion. I have always made common cause with them—I have always defended them when attack'd, though they have not always had the same attention to me—I have really endeavour'd to the best of my knowledge to gratify them in every thing, & I do firmly believe that the distress of the times has made them wish to separate themselves from me & to lay the fault upon me. One thing of importance they may say against me viz. That I am not equal in abilities to the Station which I ought to hold, as the place next the director of Publick Affairs at this time : the truth of this I have often acknowledged & the consciousness of this has often made me think myself criminal in remaining where I am. I have been miserable for ten years in obedience to your Majesty's commands, but since your Majesty has now form'd your opinion, that I have been a great cause of this mischief, I hope that your Majesty has determined to permit me soon to retire, as I have now nothing to comfort

me in a situation which is irksome to me, for really it is impossible to bear misery and guilt at the same time, for I must look upon it as a degree of guilt to continue in office, while the Publick suffers & while nobody approves my conduct. I beg leave to subscribe myself, with the most dutiful attachment, Sir, Your Majesty's most dutiful subject & servant, NORTH.

No. 2846—*Lord Weymouth to the King.*

EALING *Nov.* 23^{d} 1779

Your Majesty having most graciously consented to my retiring before the meeting of the Parliament, would Your Majesty permitt me to have the honour of delivering the Seals at the Queen's House tomorrow previous to the Council for reading Your Majesty's Speech. As the Peers are invited for Wednesday Evening to the house of Lord Stormont, it may be thought more proper that the Speech should be read by him at the Council.

No. 2847—*Lord North to the King.*

[24*th November*, 1779.]

Lord North encloses a letter by which his Majesty will see how true Lord North spoke when he told his Majesty that it would be impossible to carry on the business through Parliament in the present situation. The Att^{y} Genl. in this letter is determined to resign or worse. Lord North fears that L^{d} Hillsborough & Lord Bathurst cannot kiss hands today, and that his Majesty must do something towards another system, for the present will not last four and twenty hours.

Wednesday Morning.

No. 2848—*Lord North to the King.*

[24 *November*, 1779.]

Lord North has the honour of informing his Majesty that having as he thought it his duty communicated to Lord Bathurst

the Attorney General's message, he finds him very honourably determined at all events to accept, if he remains in office but a week; His appointment not being the object of the Attorney's displeasure, & he being informed privily of the situation of Government, Lord North thinks there can be no objection to going on with that part of the arrangement and appointing him President this morning.

Downing Street.
Wednesday.

No. 2849—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North thought it incumbent upon him to transmit to his Majesty the letter he received this morning, because it seem'd to throw a different aspect & appearance upon the state of his Majesty's affairs in Parliament. Not by any means intending to desert his Majesty, but to stand clear as having given notice of everything that had happened. He is ready to stand any danger, and he knows of no man he wishes more for his companion than Lord Hillsborough, to whom he has no objection, that the seals should be given as soon as his Majesty thinks proper, & he has talked to every person in that stile, so that it is generally understood that the Southern Seals are disposed of Lord North, having given notice of every thing of importance to his Majesty, is willing to carry on the public business as well as he can, & his Majesty will find that in the midst of the approaching Storm, he will stand as firm as his health and abilities will permit.

Wednesday Evening [24 *November*, 1779].

P.S. Perhaps, his Majesty may be willing to give the Seals to Lord Hillsborough tomorrow; He will attend the meeting tonight, & take joy; his Majesty will find in him an honest & Ld. North thinks, an able supporter, but the Die is cast, & nothing is left but to fight as well as we can. These Crosses, & these alarms are distressing, & absolutely drive Lord North to madness.

No. 2850—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 289.

QUEEN'S HOUSE. *Nov. 24th.* 1779.

$\frac{m}{35}$ *p.* 10 P.M.

LORD NORTH—It would have been most desirable that You had seen this Morning the Affair of Ld. Hillsborough in the same point of view as this Night; for undoubtedly by the having delayed his receiving the Seals has given room to many unfavourable surmises; I therefore leave it for Lord North's consideration whether after such an event it be best to give him the Seals tomorrow or to postpone it to Friday when it will appear more regular, an order must now be given for a Council tomorrow which is not usual on the day Parliament assembles. I should think Lord North had best consult Lord Hillsborough himself or Lord Stormont as to the properest day for the appointment. I shall either do it tomorrow or any other day as shall on the whole be thought best. Lord North I hope now recollects that in his note he has said that the *Die is Cast* consequently no untoward conduct of the Attorney General is to prevent his going on. this I must insist on before I give the Seals. One event I have heard this day which ought to encourage the going on; this day in the City the report was current that the Ministry would be changed. The language of the Merchants was very strong at the folly of Ministry to retire and the fullest marks that though they might in some things have blamed the conduct of Affairs they thought much worse of the Opposition and that consequently a change must be disadvantageous to the Public.

No. 2851—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North finds that Lord Hillsborough having told several persons that he was to have the seals today rather wishes that it should be so if agreeable to his Majesty. He was at the meeting last night and accepted the compliments of all present. The Lords present were 63. The Commons present at the Cockpit from 220 to 230.

When Lord North mention'd the expression of the *Die being Cast* he meant for the opening of the Session. At present, There

is nothing to be done but to fight, but Lord North has not changed his opinion as to the difficulty of carrying his Majesty's business through the Session. The great & increasing opposition added to disunion amongst ourselves will break up the government and that is a moment that must be foreseen & provided against. The Conduct of the Attorney General affects Lord North only in his publick capacity, & as it is likely to affect His Majesty's affairs, which in this moment must be considerably, & therefore, he thought it indispensable that his Majesty should know his sentiments before any further steps should be taken. Lord North will, in obedience to his Majesty, do all the personal service he can, but he cannot, in conscience, undertake to assure his Majesty that he will carry the business through the Session. His own state & faintness of body & mind, & the general situation of things forbids him to give any such assurance. His Majesty may be certain, that, whatever some particular men may have said, There would be no public satisfaction at a change of Administration. The Opposition are not popular nor the Ministry neither, & the nation is gloomy, & displeased at their present situation.

Nov^r 25. 1779.

No. 2852—*Mr. Jenkinson to the King.*

The moment I left your Majesty yesterday, I went to Lord Norths & saw Him; I found Him very much flustered & very jealous; I began to talk to Him on the subject of Lord Hillsborough; He wonder^d where I could have heard any thing of that Business; I had an answer ready & a true one, which was that He had told me the whole of it himself; I saw however from this little Specimen that it would not be safe for me to proceed further or to touch upon any of the Topics which your Majesty had suggested. He had just received a very angry Message from Lord Hillsborough who was then waiting at Mr. Robinson's House; He returned for answer to His Lordship (as Mr. Robinson afterwards told me) that He, Lord Hillsborough, should go to Lord Stormont's Meeting, was to consider Himself as Secretary of State & that *He Ld. North* would write to your Majesty, that you would permit Lord Hillsborough to kiss hands to-day. He appeared indeed perfectly ashamed of the Morning's Transaction —He was very thoughtful during His Dinner, but recovered

Himself a little towards the last.—The Meeting at the Cockpit was better than He expected, & more numerous, I am told, than last year; & Mr. Robinson tells me that We shall be tonight between 220 & 230 & the Opposition between 170 & 180.

I have received the Note with which Your Majesty has been graciously pleased to honour me; I think that the Answer You have written to Lord North is as wise & discreet, as any thing can be. I would submit to your Majesty whether You would not write to the Chancellour, as soon as you have heard again from Lord North, & it is determined that Lord Hillsborough is to kiss hands, informing Him of it. I see the Chancellour's conduct exactly in the same point of View, that your Majesty does; but I think it will be right to endeavour to keep Him in good Humour.

The Attorney was at the Dinner yesterday & rather out of Humour; Lord Beauchamp was there & in good Humour; Lord North told Mr. Robinson, that He wanted to do something for His Lordship in order to keep the Hertford Family well inclined. Mr. Rigby was not at the Dinner.

From Your Majesty's Dutifull Subject C. Jenkinson.

Parl^{t} Street.
Nov^{r} 25th, 1779
¼ *past* 9.

No. 2853.

Minute of Cabinet.

[In Lord Stormont's handwriting.]

at Lord Chancellor's. *Nov.* 27. 1779.

Present.

Ld. Chancellor.
Ld. Privy Seal.
Ld. Sandwich
Ld. Hillsborough
Ld. G. Germain
Ld. North
Ld. Amherst
Ld. Stormont.

Agreed:—To recommend to His Majesty to raise as soon as possible Eight Thousand Men in Ireland to be employed wherever His Majesty shall please to direct.

No. 2854—*Mr. Jenkinson to the King.*

I think it right to send your Majesty the Inclosed letter from Mr. Robinson, by which your Majesty will see what produced the unpleasant Conference which you had with Lord North yesterday. Your Majesty may be assured that if I can render you any Service by having open & confidential Conversations with Lord North, I will be ready at all times to have them. I look upon all this as nothing permanent, but as a Disease of the Mind, which goes & comes ; & which as long as it lasts, is very unpleasant to those who have any thing to do with Him.

From Your Majesty's Dutyfull Subject C. Jenkinson.

Parl^{t} Street.
Nov^{r} 28th 1779
¼ *past* 11.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2855—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of informing his Majesty, that he has great reason to beleive that the object of Lord Shelbourne's motion in the House tomorrow, & of Lord Upper Ossory's in the House of Commons on Monday next is to blame in the strongest terms the delays which have prevail'd respecting Ireland, & to direct the whole blame at Lord North. That the movers expect to be supported by Lord Gower & his friends, & do not despair of the assistance of the Chancellor. This expectation, wild as it appears, is not absolutely impossible, Lord Chancellor & Lord Stormont both on Saturday last & yesterday, have given in the Cabinet the strongest marks of their dislike to Lord North. As they are two of the ablest, if not, the two ablest servants which his Majesty has, their dislike to and disapprobation of Lord North will render it almost impracticable for his Majesty's affairs to be carried on by the present Ministry. His Majesty had better part with Lord North a thousand times than lose the assistance of the other two. The Chancellor not only strongly reprobates the conduct of Lord North in the meetings of the Cabinet, but in his communication with several persons frequently repeats that it is

necessary that Lord North should be removed. Lord North hardly thinks that he will in a public Debate say anything to-morrow which may amount to an open breach, but his sentiments are so well known that the opposition have conceived great hopes of the part he will act tomorrow. It is said that these two motions are to be followed by an impeachment of Lord North, from whence Lord North expects no mischief personally to himself & which he wishes to meet, if possible, out of office, & trust to his innocence alone & the protection of the Law. What, however, concerns him only is a matter not worth a moment of his Majesty's consideration, but it deserves well the matured deliberation, whether in the midst of these growing difficulties. It is not become indispensable necessary for his Majesty to turn in his thoughts some new arrangement. Lord North himself is so broken in memory, in spirits, & in bodily strength that he cannot hope to be able to serve well much longer, however ready he may to sacrifice all his wishes, and all his failings to his Majesty's commands. After the declarations of Lord Rockingham's friends & of Mr. Fox on the first day of the Session, Lord North conjectures that Lord Shelburne & his little party may be easily induced to make up an administration with Lord Chancellor, Lord Stormont, Lord Gower & His friends, especially while the effect of the Majorities at the opening of the Session remains, but that moment will pass, & these persons be plunged into a determined opposition against a divided Cabinet, who will not, in that case, be able to do right in any one of the great questions which are before us. To this misfortune must be added that Lord North disapproved by his brethren in the Cabinet will not be fairly supported in the House as the long conversation he has had with the Attorney General gives him every reason to doubt whether he will not leave him soon on some very material question. Lord North thought it his duty to mention all these circumstances to the King that His Majesty may be able to determine what is best for himself & for the public. Lord North really thinks there is a moment which may be made use of, & which, once past, can never be recall'd. The probability is that Lord North will be fairly driven away in the course of the Session, & a party coming in victoriously will carry their expectations very high indeed. If his Majesty will give way now to that which will, Lord North fears, be extorted from him ; He will probably preserve a great

many men whom he approves, He will have an administration strong enough for the times, & he will be able to avail himself of Lord North's services as a Member of Parliament in which he can serve him tolerably well though he can not serve well as a Minister, for, though Lord North does not desire to quit his post till his Majesty sees the propriety of it, He is convinced that there will never arrive a time in which such a change will not be worse than at present. The Government will certainly grow weaker every day.

In case of change, Lord Stormont will, probably, remain; Lord Bathurst & Lord Hillsborough were apprized by Lord North of the danger when they accepted, and the latter will not be unwilling to retire.

Lord North hopes that his Majesty will consider this as proceeding from his notion of his duty, to give his Majesty the best advice he can, upon what he has seen for these few days past in the Cabinet, and from what he has learnt from Mr. Robinson who has collected his information from good quarters. Lord North submits it all to his Majesty's consideration, and desires that his Majesty's interest and the Publick's only may be considered. The little while he can serve both, he will to the best of his power, but his Majesty may be assured that the advice he gives is the best in the present appearance of affairs.

Downing Street. *Nov.* 30. 1779.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2856—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 290.

Queens House. *Nov. 30th.* 1779.

Lord North, is too well apprized of my political sentiments as well as of my personal ones for him to doubt of the uneasiness his long Epistle has given me, the subject of which I have so often combated, that it would be useless to go through the arguments again; and as I never have been able to get Lord North to explain when in this train of reasoning whether I was to understand it as a determination in him to retire from His Employment, I have fallen on the only safe method the shewing

his letter to Lord Dartmouth, and desiring him to get a full explanation, which will I trust enable Lord North to speak determinately to me tomorrow. I can state my sentiments in three words ; I wish Lord North to continue, but if he is resolved to retire he must understand the step, though thought necessary by Him, is very unpleasant to Me.

Draft and fair copy in the King's handwriting.

No. 2857—*Mr. Jenkinson to the King.*

PARL^{T} STREET. *Nov^{r} 30th.*
40 *m. past* 6.

Since I had the honour to write to your Majesty I have seen Mr. Robinson, He states in the strongest & most alarming manner the Distracted State of Lord North's mind. He confirms what Lord North had mention^{d} of the Behaviour of Lord Stormont, & says that Lord North said that the Behaviour of the Chancellour & Lord Stormont was such, that if the same happen^{d} again, He could not sit in Cabinet with them. This is all I can learn. There is much of Passion in all this ; It is in my humble opinion however right that the whole should be clear^{d} up, & I am still of the same sentiment that I was, when I wrote to your Majesty last.

From Your Majesty's Dutyfull Subject C. JENKINSON.

I shall pay my Duty to your Majesty tomorrow.

No. 2858—*Mr. Jenkinson to the King.*

I received your Majesty's Note just as I was going to the House of Commons, where I had a Motion to make that would not admit of Delay ; I thought best therefore to go, that I might not occasion suspicion.

I cannot help feeling in the strongest manner the very disagreeable situation in which Lord North puts your Majesty almost every day ; I begin almost to doubt whether He does not mean to retire, though I cannot say I am clear. I saw Lord Mansfield this morning, He came to me very early ; He told me that Ld. Chancellour & Lord Stormont were particularly well together, &

though He said nothing positive, He convey[d] enough to make me conceive that He was disposed to have Lord North out, & Lord Shelburne in ; & this corresponds so exactly with a part of Ld. North's Note that I am now the more convinced of the Truth of that Suspicion. I saw Ld. Gower yesterday & He was furious against Lord North, & I have no doubt, that the Motions of Lord Shelburne & Lord Ossory have the Tendency, which Ld. North suspects. I agree with your Majesty that Ld. North's Retreat (if it is to happen) should be decided on by Himself ; He has certainly come very near to that Decision. I therefore submit it to your Majesty whether it will not be best to write to Lord North a very kind Note, but in general Terms, & appoint a Time to see Him, and then put to Him directly the three Questions your Majesty put to Him before ; & if He answers You, as He did then, that your Majesty should send for the Chancellour & put the Business in the same train it was in before.

From your Majesty's Dutyfull Subject C. JENKINSON.

PARL[T] STREET.
Nov[r] 30th. 1779
$\frac{m}{50}$ *past* 4.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2859—*Mr. Jenkinson to the King.*

I feel myself highly honour[d] by the confidence your Majesty has been previously pleased to repose in me in sending me a Copy of the Note you have written to Lord North. I have just been with him and he appeared in good spirits, but I fear his spirits are not to be rely[d] on for any time. Your Majesty has in my poor judgment acted very wisely in sending for Lord Dartmouth & making him the Channel. to prepare Lord North for the Explanation that is to be had to-morrow.

From Your Majesty's Dutifull Subject, C. JENKINSON.

PARL[T] STREET.
Nov[r] 30th, 1779.
11 P.M.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2860—*Mr. Jenkinson to the King.*

PARK STREET *Decr. 1st* $\frac{m}{40}$ *past* 11.—1779.

Lord Dartmouth did not see Lord North last night; He called, but did not find Him at home; This morning They have been together; & Mr R[obinson] has just now been with me to tell me what has passd. Lord North begins again to alter His Language & I fear your Majesty will get nothing explicite from Him today unless you insist upon it. He says, that He thought it his Duty to lay before your Majesty the dangerous state of your Affairs, that You may judge, what it may be proper to do, & that He is ready to do any thing; The Meaning of all this, is, that He may have it to say to the World that He is ready to retire, but that your Majesty insists on His continuing in His present Station. Allow me, Sir, with all Humility to observe, that from what I know of the sentiments and conversations of Mankind, this is the very worst position, in which this Business can remain, & may be detrimental to your Majesty in the opinion of many; I wish therefore most earnestly that Lord North may not have it in His Power to say that He thinks He is unfit for His Station, that He is told your Majesty so, but that You will have him remain. If this should be the Case, every Publick Calamity will be charged hereafter to the Account of your Majesty; He should be obliged to declare that He is desirous to go on, & that He thinks he can transact the Publick Business, or He should leave your Majesty at liberty to take any other Help you think proper; I hope your Majesty will excuse this Liberty, which proceeds from a Heart devoted to your Service. What alarms me is the Dissentions in the Cabinet, which must put a Stop to Business in this very critical Moment & in the End bring on a Change of Government for one or other of the contending Parties must go out; & This being the Case, your Majesty cannot get at the Bottom of the whole of this Business too soon.

I am obliged to go today to the House of Commons on two Points that require my presence Officially, so that I shall not be able to pay my Duty to your Majesty till it is late.

From Your Majesty's Dutyfull Subject C. JENKINSON.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2861—*Lord North to the King.*

[1 *December*, 1779.]

Lord North has the honour of proposing to his Majesty, if agreable to give the Staff of Treasurer of the Household to Lord Onslow, & that of Comptroller to Sir Richard Worseley. He will have the honour of mentioning some other appointments for the consideration of his Majesty, but Sr. Richard wishes to vacate his seat today, that he may offer himself Candidate for Hampshire tomorrow at the County meeting.

Downing Street. *Wednesday morning.*

No. 2862—*The King to Lord North.*

Queens House *Dec.* 1*st* 1779.

$\frac{m}{46}$ *pt.* 11. A.M.

I very readily consent to Ld North's proposal, and shall in consequence conferr this day the Treasurer of the Household's Staff on Lord Onslow and that of Comptroller on Sir Richard Worseley, the more so as it is a confirmation of Lord North's having decided to continue in his present Employment, which I cannot help thinking the most advisable resolution at this time.

Draft, endorsed by the King.

No. 2863—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 290.

Queens House *Dec* 1*st*. 1779.

$\frac{m}{30}$ *pt* 10 PM.

Lord North—Since the receipt of Your account of the Sailors having been Voted in the Committee of Supply this day without a Division; I have received the Irish letters which shew that there is an end of all Government in that Country; the Lord Lieutenant Seems to feel himself that a Successor is the most natural consequence.

No. 2864—*Mr. Jenkinson to the King.*

I have this Instant received the Inclosed from Mr Robinson, & as it gives some Information of what passed last night between the Chancellour & Lord North, I have thought it proper to send it to your Majesty.

Ld Hilsborough told me in the Antichamber after I had left your Majesty, that He had seen Lord North yesterday at 5 o'Clock in the Evening, & that He then told Him that He was determined to go on. I see that Lord Hilsborough very much dreads the Thoughts of a Change & what Ld North said to Him might be mere Pretense.

From Your Majesty's Dutiful Subject C. Jenkinson

War Office
Decr. 3*d.* [1779]
½ *past* 2.

No. 2865—*The King to the Lord Chancellor.*

[3 *December*, 1779.]

His Majesty ever desirous of promoting the Welfare and Happiness of His Dominions thinks it behoves every one actuated by any attachment to his Country, to cast aside all private pique and animosity and cordially unite in the Service of the State. He therefore *has authorized me to declare that He* is willing to * *cast aside* any events that may have displeased Him, and to admit into His confidence and * Service *those* who will join with part of his present Ministry in forming one on a more enlarged plan, provided it be understood that every means are to be employed to keep the Empire entire, to prosecute the present and un-

* blot from His remembrance
* any Men of public spirit or talents

provoked War in all its branches with the utmost vigour, and that * *no blame be laid on any past measures.*

* His Majesty's past Measures to be treated with proper respect.

Draft and three fair copies, endorsed by the King, Delivered Nov. 12th 1779 to the Chancellor, which he returned on the 23rd without having taken any step from the indecision of L^{d} North. A fresh copy sent to the Chancellor, Dec. 3rd.

No. 2866—*Sir Samuel Hood to the King.*

Sir—I have the deepest sense of gratitude for the letter your Majesty most graciously pleased to condescend to write me by Major General De Bude

Your Majesty may firmly rely, on the utmost exertion of every person in the department of the Dockyard, in carrying on the Equipments of Your Majesty's Ships, and I have full belief Sir, that the expedition that was used in coppering the Sandwich was never exceeded by any Artificers and I can venture to assure your Majesty, the same active & zealous disposition will ever prevail, not only in the Master Shipwright, and his assistants, but in every subordinate person. A misfortune may befall the best of Men, There was a pressing necessity for carrying the Sandwich out of the harbour; for want of wind the ship could not be moved quite so soon as the tide would have permitted, and She being unusually deep, and going near the ground, she would not readily answer her helm. The greatness of the draft of water the Pilot I fear was not sufficiently aware of, to which, and the Tide on its turning from Flood to Ebb, setting on the inner part of the spit, together with a failure of wind just in the narrows, the accident was owing; but I am very sure, from the strictest observation the officers of the yard made, during her being on shore, that the Ship had not received the least injury—The Pilot has carried Your Majesty's Ships in, & out of Harbour about five & thirty years

This Misfortune has occasioned it, to be submitted to the Navy board, from hence, whether it would not be adviseable to give orders for the most favourable *stage* of the Tides to be

attended to, in carrying Ships of a large draft of water out of the Harbour, without their guns, and to take them on board at Spithead.

Notwithstanding the Sandwich has 24 pounders below instead of 32, and is lighter masted, she drew above a foot more water, than ever she did, on leaving the harbour before.

It has ever been Sir, and ever will continue to be, my greatest pride and ambition to acquit myself in my duty to the utmost of my abilities, for the good of Your Majesty's Service, and I most humbly and with the utmost deference, beg leave to subscribe myself,

Your Majesty's most dutifull and devoted Servant

SAML HOOD.

PORTSMOUTH DOCKYARD
Decr. 3*d.* 1779.

No. 2867.

MINUTE OF CABINET.

Copy—

At LORD NORTH'S *Dec.* 5. 1779.

Present

Lord Chancellor
Lord President
Lord Privy Seal
Lord Sandwich
Lord Hillsborough
Lord North
Lord Amherst
Lord Stormont

Agreed that Lord North do propose to Parliament to grant to Ireland the Exportation of Woollen Manufactures, Glass and Hops, and to open the Trade of Ireland to and from the British Colonies in America & Settlements in Africa. Provided that this shall not extend to any Priviledges in Trade which may be vested in any exclusive Company, but that all the Articles of Commerce above referred to shall be and remain subjected to the same Restrictions and Burthens as the same shall be liable to in the Island of Great Britain.

No. 2868—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

The Drt submitted to yr Majesty is according to the opinion of the cabinet, they were all aware of the disagreeable consequences that may follow, but the extraordinary and unjustifiable Behaviour of the Swedish captain seemed to make it impossible to follow any other line of conduct. This Drt was drawn too late to be laid before yr Majesty this evening. Lord Sandwich wishes to dispatch the orders to Admiral Drake as soon as possible.

Monday night. Decr 6 [1779]. *Eleven o'clock.*

No. 2869—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 291.

QUEENS HOUSE *Dec. 7th* 1779.
$\frac{m}{55}$ *pt* 3. P.M.

By some mistake of a Servant though Ld. North's Box enclosing the list of Speakers in Yesterday's Debate was delivered at one in the Morning, yet it was not brought into my Room with the Votes till after I went out this Morning, and on coming home I have found it on my table. I am pleased with the Majority, though highly incensed at the personal conduct of Mr. Macdonald, whose disappointment at the East India House added to the conduct of his father in Law is no excuse for his behaviour.

No. 2870—*Lord North to the King.*

[8 *December*, 1779.]

His Majesty having mentioned in his note to Lord North the displeasure he felt at hearing of Mr. McDonald's conduct in the Ho of Commons on Monday, Lord North thinks himself obliged in justice to Mr McDonald to inclose to his Majesty two very handsome letters which he received yesterday from him, by which his Majesty will perceive that [he] thinks he has been to blame, & very candidly & handsomely acknowledges it

Lord North thinks himself obliged to add a word or two to

what he said on Monday concerning the Attorney General. He has upon every occasion since the opening of Parliament opposed the faction against Government in the frankest, steadiest, and ablest manner, He says, he will continue to do it for the sake of his Majesty's service, & of Government in general but he feels as much as ever the personal ill usage he has met with from Lord North, from whom he learns that his situation is worse now, than according to Lord North's information, it was a year & a half ago. Lord North has nothing to answer to this, but thinks it right to state to his Majesty, that Mr Wedderburn's zeal for Government appears great though his resentment to Lord North continues.

Wednesday morning.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2871.

Draft of Resolutions.

as laid before the Cabinet at Lord North's on Wednesday Night the 8th Deceme. 1779.

Or this

Resolved that It is expedient to allow the Exportation from the Kingdom of Ireland in Ships navigated according to Law, of all Woolen Manufactures whatsoever, or Manufactures made up or mixed with Wool or Wool flocks.

19 Geo. 2d. C 12. S. 21.

Resolved that It is expedient to allow to the People of Ireland the Liberty of Exporting from thence all Woolen Manufactures whatsoever, or Manufactures made up, or mixed with Wool or Wool-flocks.

Resolved that it is expedient to repeal so much of an Act made in the 19th Year of the Reign of His late Majesty King George the 2d. as relates to the Exportation of Glass, Glass Bottles or Glass of any Denomination whatsoever from the Kingdom of Ireland.

6 Geo 1. C 11. S 40

Resolved that It is expedient to repeal so much of an Act made in the 6th Year of the Reign of His Majesty King George the 1st. as relates to the Drawback of the Duties on the Exportation of Hops of British Growth from Great Britain to Ireland.

Resolved that it is expedient to allow the Trade between Ireland, the British Colonies in America & the Settlements on the Coast of Africa to be carried on in like manner and under the same Restrictions as it is now carried on between the said Colonies and Settlements & Great Britain in all Cases where the said Commerce does not interfere with the Priviledges that are or may be granted to any Company having an exclusive Trade; All Commodities in which such Commerce is carried on being subject upon Importation at all times to the same Duties as such Commodities shall pay in Great Britain.

Quy. Whether the Three following Resolutions are to be now moved.

9 Ann C 10

Resolved that it is expedient to repeal so much of Two Acts made in the 9th Year of the Reign of Her Majesty Queen Ann, and in the 5th Year of the Reign of His present

Or this

Resolved that it is expedient to establish certain Regulations with respect to the Rates

of Postage of Letters within the Kingdom of Ireland.

Majesty, as relates to establishing certain Rates of Postage of Letters within the Kingdom of Ireland.

19 Hen. 7. C.T.

Coin.

Resolved that it is expedient to repeal so much of an Act made in the 19th Year of the Reign of King Henry 7th. as relates to prohibiting the Exportation of Bullion Plate or Coin of Gold & Silver from this Realm into Ireland.

5 Geo 3. C. 10

Resolved that it is expedient to revive & continue for a time to be limited an Act made in the 5th. Year of the Reign of His present Majesty to permit the Free Importation of Cattle from Ireland.

No. 2872—*Mr. Jenkinson to the King.*

Park Street, *Decr.* 9 1779.

I have received this Instant the Note with which your Majesty has been graciously pleased to honour me ; In my poor Judgement all your Majesty said to the Chancellour was perfectly wise & proper. It appears to me to be right to let the Chancellour go on upon the Plan which your Majesty has laid down, till He says He can do nothing, & not to give Him any further or specific Instructions. The gaining of Time is of some Importance ; I pay but little Attention to what Lord North says in his Note censuring Himself. He was last night very much fatigued & ill ; When Health returns, He will, as usual, alter His Language.

I am obliged to attend the House of Commons today early, when the Army Resolutions are to be reported, & We are to have another Debate so that it is not in my power to pay my Duty to your Majesty today, but I will not fail to do it tomorrow.

From Your Majesty's Dutyfull Subject C. Jenkinson.

No. 2873.

STATE OF THE EQUIPMENT OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIPS UNDER THE COMMAND OF ADMIRAL SIR GEORGE RODNEY THE 10TH DECR. 1779.

At Spithead

Sandwich Royal George Ajax Shrewsbury Montagu Phoenix Pegasus Greyhound Porcupine Triton Andromeda Hornet	These Ships are in all respects ready for Sea.
Prince George Alcide Cumberland America Bedford Culloden Edgar Alfred Monarch Terrible	Want a great part of their Provisions, and some Stores; but if the Weather is Moderate will be Victualled by Sunday or Monday at farthest.
Convert Seaford	Their Sails, Standing and Running Rigging much worn and decayed, very leaky in their Decks and Upperworks, ordered to be compleated with Provisions from the Duke and Valiant

In the Harbour

Pearl	Is to get her Guns in to Day and will proceed to Spithead to morrow Morning her Provisions to be completed from one of the Line of Battle Ships at Spithead.

Hyaena
Fortune } I hope to have these two Ships at Spithead complete in all respects on Monday, as also the Tapageur Cutter THOS. PYE.

Copy, in the King's handwriting.

No. 2874.

LIST OF SHIPS OF WAR. [1779 ?]

Rate.	Ships Names.	Men.	Guns.	When built.
1st.	Royal George.	850.	100.	1756. Wool.
	Britannia.			1762. Port.
	Victory.			1765. Chath.
	Royal Sovereign.			Ply.
2d.	Prince.	750.	90.	1750. Chath.
	Namur.			1756. Chath.
	Neptune.			1756. Port.
	Union.			1756. Chath.
	Sandwich.			1759. Chath.
	Blenheim.			1761. Wool.
	Ocean.			1761. Chath.
	London.			1766. Chath.
	Barfleur.			1768. Chath.
	Queen.			1769. Wool.
	Prince George.			1772. Chath.
	Princess Royal.			1773. Port.
	Formidable.			Chath.
	Duke.			Ply.
	St. George.			Ports.
	Glory.			Ply.
	Royal William.		84.	1719 / 1757 Red. in Ports.
3d.	Cambridge.	650.	80.	1755. Dept.
	Princess Amelia.			1757. Wool.
	Foudroyant.			Taken from French 1758.
	Torbay.		74.	1730 / 1749 Red. in
	Dublin.			1757. Dept.
	Lenox.			1758. Chath.
	Shrewsbury.			1758. Riv. Thas.

Rate.	Ships Names.	Men.	Guns.	When built.
	Warspight			1758. Riv. Thas.
3d.	Fame.	650.	74.	1759. Riv. Thas.
	Hero.			1759. Ply.
	Mars.			1759. Wool.
	Valiant.			1759. Chath.
	Bellona.			1760. Chath.
	Dragon.			1760. Dept.
	Superb.			1760. Dept.
	Thunderer			1760. Wool.
	Arrogant.			1761. Har.
	Cornwall.			1761. Dept.
	Courageux.			taken from the French 1761.
	Kent.			1762. Dept.
	Terrible.			1762. Har.
	Albion.			1763. Dept.
	Defence.			1763. Ply.
	Ramillies.			1763. Chath.
	Robust.			1764. Har.
	Russell.			1764. Riv. Thas.
	Triumph.			1764. Wool.
	Canada.			1765. Wool.
	Invincible.			1765. Riv. Thas.
	Monarch.			1765. Dept.
	Suffolk.			1765. Riv. Thas.
	Prince of Wales.			1765. Milford.
	Magnificent.			1766. Dept.
	Ajax.			1767. Port.
	Marlborough.			1767. Dept.
	Egmont.			1768. Dept.
	Elizabeth.			1769. Port.
	Royal Oak.			1769. Ply.
	Resolution.			1770. Dept.
	Grafton.			1771. Dept.
	Conqueror.			1773. Ply.
	Cumberland.			1774. Dept.
	Hector.			1774. Riv. Thas.
	Vengeance.			1774. Riv. Thas.

In the King's handwriting.

No. 2875—*The King to the Lord Chancellor.*

Printed. Donne II. 294.

Queen's House *Dec.* 11*th* 1779.

My Lord—It is impossible to be more pleased than I was with the candour with which You stated to Me yesterday the very little Information You had been able to collect, and with which You at the same time confessed that if any farther steps were to be taken in this Embryo of a Negociation, it could alone arise from my condescending to depart in some degree from the Plan I have hitherto laid down, and stating something more specific than my inclination to adopt a Coalition of Parties. I will owne ingenuously, that from the conduct which has hitherto been held by those with whom You have conversed, I augur very little good from the farther prosecution of this Business, and nothing but the earnest desire I have to unite my Subjects in the present moment of danger, and to form a strong Government out of the most able and respectable of all Parties, would induce me to make any farther Attempt; influenced however by this last Motive and in order to make the person with whom You last conversed (if possible) more open and explicit, I consent that You should acquaint Him that Lord North's Situation will not stand in the Way of any proper Arrangement and that he does not desire to be a part of any new Administration that is to be formed. This Declaration ought to convince that person that I really mean a Coalition of Parties, and not merely to draw him in to support the present Ministry. If he is satisfied with this opening (as I think he ought) He is through You to state his Sentiments on the future conduct of Public Measures, and to what Degree the Demands of his Friends may be restrained, always understanding that I do not mean the quitting the one Set of Men for another, but the healing as far as depends on me, the unhappy Divisions that distract my Kingdoms.

I wish that this Business may be brought to its Issue as soon as it conveniently can, for if it does not succeed it is high time that I should take such Measures as may be necessary for the strengthening and support of the present Ministry.

Two copies in the King's handwriting with one or two unimportant variations.

No. 2876—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

The enclosed letters will shew your Majesty the exact state of readiness of Sir George Rodneys fleet, & that if the wind was to come fair they might probably sail on Monday next. The Convert & Seaford are just returned from Quebec, and have been added since their arrival to encrease the number of frigates, which was thought not to be sufficient; it is therefore natural that they should have some few wants.

Lord Sandwich has seen Captain Fielding who accepts the intended charge with great readiness, and will he hopes execute it with the utmost propriety & ability.

ADMIRALTY,
Dec: 11*th* 1779.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2877—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

ST JAMES'S *Decr* 12. 1779.
$\frac{m}{30}$ *p. three* P.M.

The Papers here submitted to your Majesty seem to deserve attention, one of the Persons S^{r} J. Yorke mentions, Triquetti I had heard of through secret channels whilst I was in France and knew the advantage S^{r} Joseph derived from Him.

It is but too certain that there is at present a Want of Regular immediate Secret Intelligence that is highly prejudicial to Y^{r} Maj^{tys} Service.

These two Persons seem calculated to remedy in some Degree that Defect. I should therefore humbly be of opinion that it would be proper to encourage S^{r} J. Yorkes Ideas on the Subject, and to desire Him to explain them more particularly But before I prepare a Drt for that Purpose I am anxious to know Your Majestys pleasure which on account of the Nature of the Business I ask in this secret Manner.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2878—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

S[T] JAMES'S $\frac{m}{15}$ *p. four* P.M.

I lose no Time in laying before Yr Majesty a Memorial I have just rec[d] from Baron Nolken with whom I had a good deal of general conversation. I avoided giving any answer as to the Material Point, and kept myself to vague friendly assurances. In this stage of the Business it seems necessary to decide whether a friendly Purchase can be made. Such a Purchase if practicable would prevent much disagreeable Discuss[n]. The Drt to Mr. Broughton cannot be prepared till it be decided what Turn is to be given to this Business.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2879—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

ST. JAMES'S, *Decr.* 14. 1779.

$\frac{20}{m}$ *p. two* P.M.

I shall use every endeavour to obey yr Majestys commands and get the Purchase of the Swedish cargoes carried through with the utmost expedition if the Swedish agents will agree to it. No Difficulty will arise from the Court of Admiralty S[r] James Marriot is clearly of opinion that the Purchase violates no Rule of the Admiralty Court.

I submit to Yr Majesty the very Private Letter to S[r] J. Yorke.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2880—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 294.

QUEENS HOUSE *Dec.* 17*th* 1779.

$\frac{m}{40}$ *p.* 9. A.M.

I enclose a Copy of the letter I wrote last Saturday to the Chancellor, which is the only paper subsequent to the Note I gave Lord North on the beginning of this affair, I have made out this Copy that as I desired Lord North to keep the first he may also keep this.

No. 2881—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of informing his Majesty that the Ordnance Estimate has been voted today after a long debate without a division.

He takes the liberty at the same time of adding the letter which he received today from the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, and which he thinks promising as to the event of our concessions.

Decr. 17 [1779]. 8 *o'clock* P.M.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2882—*The King to the Lord Chancellor.*

Printed. Donne II. 297.

QUEENS HOUSE *Dec.* 16*th* 1779.

MY LORD—I have considered the Report You made to me on Thursday of the final Result of Your endeavours to sound the dispositions of the Opposition on the Plan I had authorized You to propose, of forming an Administration strong enough to carry on the Public business smoothly in the present arduous state of Affairs, consisting of the Wise, the Virtuous, and the Respectable of all Parties. You then told me You were convinced that any Proposition of this sort made in my name would be declined, as the Members of Opposition would not consent to join any of my present Ministers. A profession like this so totally destroys the only Ground on which I can bring myself to accept the Services of Men of that Description, and is in my opinion so contrary to the Public Good, that I should not have said one Word more on this subject, but from a desire of stating to You fully the Grounds of my Conduct, and of shewing You with what Sincerity and Zeal I have wished to bring about so desirable an Event, though the Sort of cold Treatment I have met with through the whole course of this business would have disgusted any Prince who did not act on Public Motives as I have done.

When I found You My Lord, Lord Gower, Lord Weymouth

and Lord North thought it right to endeavour to form a Coalition of Parties, I yielded to such respectable Opinions. With this View I put into Your hands about a fortnight before the Meeting of Parliament a Paper containing the Plan on which I thought it proper to authorize You to treat; to this You did not appear to Me to have any Objection, and the Business at that time stopt from a Delicacy of Sentiment in You, not to commence such a Negociation till Lord North should have declared that He could not go on. No Step was therefore taken, and You returned the Paper to Me two days before the Meeting of Parliament. But Lord North having on the first of this Month declared to Me that He thought it adviseable to make an Attempt to form an Administration on a broader basis, and that in order to promote so desirable a Measure He did not wish to retain His present Office, or to make a part of any new Ministry that might be formed; I on the 3d informed You of this, and authorized You again to proceed, giving You a fresh Copy of my Paper. A few days after You informed Me that having consulted Lord Camden, He declined the Task of sounding the Inclinations and Opinions of His Friends either as to the Principles on which they were disposed to carry on Public Measures, or as to a Coalition with any part of the present Ministry. You then addressed Yourself to Lord Shelburne, who would not open Himself farther, than that He thought that the more Connection that could be preserved with America the better; but He did not say what the Nature of that Connection should be; and He added that He did not pretend to be a Director of Opposition and could not tell whether a Coalition of Parties would answer the Ideas of Opposition, and that it would be gracious in Me to declare what Openings I would make, that they might judge whether their Sentiments and Mine could agree. Cold and Distant as I had reason to think this Mode of proceeding to be, I still judged it right to make every Advance that was proper or that could be expected of Me; and I gave the most authentic Proof that it was possible for me to give that I meant a fair Coalition and not merely to draw them over to the Support of the present Administration by authorising You on the 11th to declare that Lord North's situation would not stand in the way of any new Arrangement of which he did not desire to make a part; and I then desired You to call on them to state fairly to

Me the Principles on which they were disposed to carry on public measures, and what Changes with respect to Men they expected I should make for the purpose of effecting the desirable End of a Coalition; to which on Thursday I was able to obtain no other Answer but that a Coalition seemed not to answer their Views.

From the cold Disdain with which I am thus treated, it is evident to Me what treatment I am to expect from Opposition if I was to call them now to my Service; Nothing less will satisfy them than a total Change of Measures and Men; to obtain their Support I must deliver up my Person, my Principles, and my Dominions into their hands; I must also abandon every Old, Illustrious, and faithful Servant I have to be treated as their resentment or their mercy may incline them. These would be hard Terms indeed to a Sovereign in any situation, I trust to God that mine is not yet so bad as this; I will never make my Inclinations alone nor even my own Opinions the sole rule of my Conduct in Public Measures; my first Object shall be the Good of my People; I will at all times consult my Ministers and place in them as entire a Confidence as the nature of this Government can be supposed to require of Me; You My Lord and all who have ever served Me can do Me the Justice to testify that I have not been Defficient in this respect. But none of my Ministers can after this trial advise Me to change my Government totally, and to admit Opposition without any Terms. My Parliament have already shewn since their Meeting, that they are in opinion against such a desperate Measure; and I am confident from all I can learn, that it is not the wish of my People at large; They wish that I would strengthen my Government by bringing into it all that is eminent and respectable, but they do not wish that I should turn out one Set of Men merely for the purpose of bringing in another.

Nothing therefore remains for Me to do, but to exert Myself and to call upon all those who serve Me to exert themselves in Support of my Legal Authority, and to resist this formidable and desperate Opposition; and I shall do it with more Confidence and Spirit from a Consciousness that I have done all which it becomes a Sovereign to do, to reclaim the Factious, to form a Coalition of the Great and Virtuous, and to unite all my Subjects.

I have only to add, that if among Your Acquaintance and Connections, You can point out any one by whose Talents and Industry my Government can be strengthened in any of its Departments, I shall be happy to receive Your Advice; and I wish to have it before I talk to Lord North, which I mean to do very soon on this Subject; and I have no doubt that after all You have seen of my conduct, You will endeavour to convince Your Friends and particularly those who have lately left my service, that nothing has been wanting on my part to bring about a proper Coalition.

No. 2883—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

St James's *Decr* 18, 1779
$\frac{m}{50}$ *p. three* PM.

It seemed necessary to write a few Lines to Sr James Harris by last Nights Post, and before the Drt could be prepared Your Majty was gone to the Play. There was a little Mistake in the Note Mr Frazer sent to Yr Majty last Night. He wrote *16* Degrees of Longitude instead of Sixty. I have just had a long conversation with Capt More who gives a very clear and consistent account. Destaing never appeared off the Coast of Georgia or Carolina but the five Ships detached from this Fleet *off Long Island in the Bahamas* may have been those that were seen off the Isle of Tybee the 4th of Septr. Capt More says that even before the Storm Destaings fleet was in very bad Condition and thinks that they can refit no where but at the Havannah I trouble Your Majesty with these Particulars of an Event which I hope taking in all its Consequences may be considered as the most important that has happened in the Course of the War.

I have this moment learnt from yr Majtys Proctor that in consequence of the orders transmitted to the Navy board and executed by them, there has this Morning been a decision in the court of admiralty which ends the very expensive Demurrage of 20 Dutch Ships.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2884—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

St James's *Decr* 19. 1779

$\frac{m}{20}$ *p. one* P.M.

I am happy to find tht Sr Robert Keiths Dispatches have met with Your Majestys entire approbation. They are indeed very able and carry strong Proofs of his Talents and Zeal. But Your Majestys observation is unanswerable, that He asks for that Information which his own Reasonings upon the present State of Europe shew that it is impossible to give Him. an Immediate alliance between Great Britain and Austria cannot I think be expected under the present circumstances, and I should much doubt whether it would be advantageous to either. The Point which in my poor opinion is to be laboured and which I meant principally to recommend to Sr R. Keith is to take every opportunity of reestablishing such a confidence between the two Courts as may make Austria whilst she remains the Nominal ally of France, the real friend of Great Britain from a Conviction that it is upon the preservation of the Power and Essential Rights of this Country that much of Her own future Greatness and Prosperity must necessarily depend. I think it my Duty to lay before Your Majesty Sr R. Keiths Private Letter tho it is upon a delicate subject and one that I should wish to avoid. It is equally my Duty to say that This used to be a very sore place with the Emperor, and that He frequently complained of a peculiar Harshness of Style and Manner in a Way that shewed it affected him exceedingly.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2885—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

Portland Place *Decr* 19, 1779

$\frac{m}{20}$ *p. Four* P.M.

I humbly conceive that Sr R. Keiths Ideas could go only to the very point which Your Majesty has in view, I mean the preventing any harsh expressions from the chancery of Hanover.

I should not have troubled Your Majesty again to day if I had not thought it my Duty to inform you that from Intelligence I have this Moment accidentally received there seems to me every Reason to believe that Count Destaing is actually at Paris. He came to France in a single ship much damaged. This news seems to me rather to confirm than shake Capt Mores account which I find many people consider as very doubtful.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2886—*The King to Lord North.*

QUEENS HOUSE *Dec.* [? 20*th*] 1779.

LORD NORTH—I transmit to You a Copy of the letter I wrote on Saturday Evening to the Chancellor [*see* No. 2882], he having carefully avoided ever writing to me whilst employed in sounding whether Opposition could be brought to accede to a sincere Coalition of Parties; I thought it highly necessary to authenticate the whole transaction by writing to him the whole thread of that business; You will find I have done it with some degree of care which I thought the nature of the Affair required; the last paragraph owes its origin to my desire of preparing against all possible events, I thought the Chancellor might perhaps hereafter say that if he had been consulted Administration might have been strengthened, the having called upon him to point out any such proposition will I am confident not bring forth any plan from him but will effectually prevent any declaration agreable to the above Supposition. You will keep it as it compleats the papers I had before given to you. I therefore shall not take up Your time with much more the letter to Him contains very fully my Poli[ti]cal Sentiments and Resolutions, all that I have therefore to add is a desire that You will point out whether any Arrangements can be made to give more Activity to the carrying on of business; one matter must give You confidence, which is the fate of Your Irish Propositions both in Parliament and in Ireland, yet You had but little assistance of the Cabinet; the decisive part You took prevented any persons pretending to mistake Your intentions be but explicit and the public business will not be so difficult as might at first be expected.

I do believe that America is nearer coming into temper to treat than perhaps at any other period, and if We arrive in time at Gibraltar Spain will not Succeed in that attack which will very probably allay the fury of the Spanish Monarch and make him more willing to end the War. I cannot conclude without strongly pressing that every measure may be taken to get the friends of Government in Yorkshire to attend the Meeting on the 30th at York not that I suppose they will be able to stop the Violence of the Meeting, but it will show that the County is not Unanimous in this business, and it may decide whether any contrary Resolutions should be taken ; I hear all the Peers in Opposition as well as the Commoners are to appear on the occasion ; Ought not Lord Fauconberg to be pressed to Attend ; the D. of Northumberland is willing to write to His friends I should think that very proper one word from Lord North will make him very active.

No. 2887—*Lord George Germain to the King.*

Lord George Germain has the honor of acquainting your Majesty that Captain Lloyd one of Sr Henry Clinton's aide de camp is this moment arrived. Comte d'Estaigns fleet and army attack'd Georgia, the Troops landed on the 8th of Septemr and were join'd by the rebels, and besieg'd Savannah, they assaulted the Lines and redoubts on the 9th of October and were repuls'd with great loss ; Fifteen Hundred French and at least as many rebels, they reimbark'd the 20th of October, the loss of the British forces was between forty and fifty. These accounts were sent from Augustine to New York. Sr James Wallace is taken and another Ship of war.

The Letters will be given to your Majesty at St James's but Lord George thought it his duty to send your Majesty immediately this short account.

Pall Mall *Decemr. 20th.* 1779 $\frac{m}{40}$ *Pt.* 10. A.M.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2888—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

ADMIRALTY *Dec*: 21*st* 1779.

Lord Sandwich did himself the honour to send the enclosed Dispatches to the Queens House at nine o'clock, but hearing that your Majesty was gone to Windsor & would not be back till three, he took the liberty to desire that the box might be returned, that he might make use of the interval to copy Captain Henerys letter for this nights Gazette, which has accordingly been done. By a letter Lord Sandwich recieved last night from Ld Mulgrave it appears that Ld Bristol is very dangerously ill.

The Captain Pakenham who had the honour of being presented to your Majesty on Friday is not brother to Ld Longford, tho' he bears the same name.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2889—*Lord George Germain to the King.*

Lord George Germain has the honor of sending your Majesty the Letters from Major General Prevot brought by Captain Shaw of the 60th Regiment. He is very intelligent and has a distinct plan of the works, if your Majesty chooses to see him, Lord George thinks your Majesty will receive satisfaction from his account.

PALL MALL *Decemr.* 21*st* 1779 $\frac{m}{5}$ *pt.* 10 A.M.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2890—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

ST JAMES'S *Decr* 21. 1779

$\frac{m}{40}$ *p. four* P.M.

I presume to inform Your Majesty that I have just learnt and I think from pretty good authority that since the news of Destaings Repulse, the French are very loud in their Complaints and Reproachs of the Americans, and nothing can be more unpopular than the American Cause now is at Paris.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2891—*Lord North to the King.*

[23 *December*, 1779.]

Lord Hillsborough told Mr. Robinson yesterday that He would apprize your Majesty that it would be more convenient if your Majesty would not go down to the Ho. of Lords till half an hour after two o'clock, Lord North supposes that he has done so, but hearing that his Majesty's coach is gone to St James's, He thinks it right to trouble his Majesty with this note to prevent the possibility of a mistake.

Downing Street. *Thursday morning.*

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2892—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

Admiralty *Dec*: 23*d*: 1779.

Lord Sandwich has the honour to send to your Majesty the list of Sir George Rodneys fleet.

He allso encloses a paper from the Master of Lloyds coffee house which seems to bear the appearance of authenticity, the account from the Clyde came by express yesterday. Your Majesty will likewise find dispatches from Admiral Arbuthnot which were recieved yesterday by the Packet, tho' your Majesty has allready seen letters from that Admiral of a later date. Lord Sandwich adds a letter he has just recieved from Sir George Rodney.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2893—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

St James's *Decr.* 23. 1779
four o'clock P.M.

I think it my Duty to inform your Majesty that Mr Elliot has received secret Intelligence from Berlin which he has shewn me, and by which it appears that the King of Prussia is in a very dangerous way. A swelling which He had in his side about two years is returned and an Imposthume is actually formed

there. His Prussn. Majesty is extremely anxious to conceal the real state of His Health, and it is very important for the sake of Mr Elliots Informers that this Intelligence should not transpire, for which Reason I convey it to yr Majty in the most secret Manner.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2894—*Mr. Jenkinson to the King.*

Decr. 23*d* 1779.

The Person, with whom I conversed yesterday, after some discourse on the Meeting in Yorkshire which He appeared very zealous to oppose, began to talk of the Weakness of Administration, saying that it was impossible it should go on, & He added several Circumstances in order to confirm His Opinion, respecting those, with whom He is at present joind. Upon it's being suggested that it might be proper to add Strength to the present Administration, but that nothing could be done till mankind came to their Senses, for that Opposition would not consent to a Coalition. He replied that He did not think, that anyone was authorised to say, that Opposition would not consent to a Coalition; & He then proceeded to say, that He was of Opinion that a Message should be sent to Opposition proposing a Coalition of the Wise & respectable of all Parties, that, if the Opposition consented to a Coalition, they should then be told, that Lord North's situation should not stand in the way of a proper Arrangement & that He did not desire to be a Part of the new Ministry, but that it should be added that if this did not succeed, Lord North was ready to go on, & that the Opposition should then be called upon to explain what they meant *further than this* by Coalition. He added that nothing should be done in this but with Lord North's consent, & that in case of a Change of Government He should be treated very honourably & particularly that He should go into the House of Lords; I was astonishd at all this, as well I might [be], thinking, as I did, that the Line of Conduct suggested above, was that, which had been followd for the last six Weeks, & that He had been the Instrument in all this Busyness; I then said Why dont You advise the King to do this. He answerd He did not

choose to do that, as He was afraid of appearing to press your Majesty too much ; I then said that I thought He was the proper Person to carry such a Message ; He said, no ; that after what had passed during the last three Weeks, if He was to carry such a Message, it might look, as if He meant to circumvent them, or some such expression ; He then added that He thought Lord Hertford was the proper Person to carry such a Message & that He should deliver it to the Duke of Grafton ; He begged that all this might not be said to any one, as coming from Himself, though He must mean that it should be conveyd somewhere ; He was uncommonly precise & as it were prepared in His manner of Expression ; & I was so struck with what had passed that I went up again to Him & desired Him to put in writing the purport of the Message which He desired to have sent to Opposition, which He appeared to decline, saying it was not necessary for that it was a very short one ; & then He repeated exactly all I have said above ; I then said I would endeavour to work through Mr Robinson, & I have therefore told Him all that was said to me.

All this passed with the utmost Civility to Myself & with the Appearance of the greatest good Humour ; & many of His Friends who were near Him, appeard to be in better Spirits & good Humour than I have seen them for some time.

No. 2895—*Mr. Jenkinson to the King.*

Addiscombe Place,
Decr. 23*d.* 1779 *late at Night.*

I have the honour to send your Majesty herewith an Account of the very extraordinary Conversation I had yesterday and of which I then apprized your Majesty ; I would not put it on paper till I was got in to the Country & my Recollection totally freed from Attention to every other Subject.

I have since seen Lord Mansfield ; I did not let Him into any Secret ; I found Lord Stormont with Him ; He did not appear to have learnt any Thing from Him ; He had not seen Lord Rockingham since He came to Town ; He thought Opposition very desperate & did not know to what Lengths they would go.

I have also seen Mr Robinson, He said that Lord Dartmouth

had been with Him yesterday morning, complaining in confidence of the Temper of Lord North ; He said it was impossible to bring Him to converse with any Patience or Composure. Mr Robinson agreed with Him in Opinion, but begd Him to see Lord North again & use all His Influence over Him ; He said He would, & that He would endeavour to bring Him to a Decision as to His future Conduct ; The whole of His Conversation appeard to me to be that of an Honest Man & of one who had a stronger Mind, though He has not the Parts or the Popular Talents of His Relation. Mr. Robinson said He had a Conversation last night with Lord North in the usual Strain, in which He declared He could not go on, but when He was pushed to come to some decisive Resolution & to declare it He always declined it. Mr Robinson had also seen the Attorney, who was very strong in His Expressions of Zeal in support of your Majesty & the Constitution, & determined to stand forth in the Defense of both, but personally Hostile to Lord North.

I will now venture with all Submission to deliver a few Sentiments on the present State of Affairs ; I do it out of Zeal to your Majesty's service & I therefore hope, I shall not offend.

The Times are certainly very melancholy, from the unfortunate State of Publick Affairs, from the Distresses of Individuals, from the Weakness of Government, & from the violent and desperate Conduct of Opposition. I trust however that by wise conduct, it will still be possible to surmount all these Misfortunes ; it will at best be some Consolation to have nothing to reproach oneself with whatever may be the Result of all this Confusion.

In times of publick Difficulty it is in My poor Opinion always right to attend to the Judgement of the Publick by which I mean not the Interested and Factious, who are always the most noisy, but the Calm & the Dispassionate Part of Mankind. As far as I am informed, these seeing the present Difficulties & Distresses, wish that Government was as strong as possible & wish it therefore to be strengthend, but they have no Opinion of the Principles of Opposition, & do not wish them Success as a Party.

In this View of things, I have always been of Opinion that Your Majesty should do all you could, to convince your People that You had done & was still ready to do every thing in your

power to add strength to your Government, & to make it as Efficient in the present Moment of Difficulty & Danger as possible, & that You were disposed to set the Example of laying aside every Prejudice for this important Purpose. Your Majesty has in my Opinion followd this very laudable Line of Conduct, in this respect, that no one could contradict, The late Conversations of the Chancellour have equally disappointed & astonished me; I have always hitherto entertaind an high Opinion of His Firmness & Integrity; It is candid to suppose that there is some Mystery, which, when it is known, will explain the whole, but which has not yet been disclosed to your Majesty & Me; At all Events it is right still to keep well with Him; It is even right in my poor Judgement to go the Length of complying with His Wishes to negociate farther with Opposition, provided it be with Lord North's Consent & that it means nothing more than Coalition. In all that the Faction of the Bedfords are doing, there may be some Plott; I half suspect it, but I cannot discover what it is.

Lord North's conduct is almost as inexplicable as theirs; I conceive however that He intends to go on, but that it must be in his own way, & that He wishes to have it to say that it is not with His own Good Will. Mr Robinson told me this morning that He now thinks on this subject as I do. If your Majesty wishes to bring Lord North to a further Explanation, I would humbly advise the sending again for Lord Dartmouth; I think Him an honest Man & much attached to your Majesty. If Lord North means to go on, He should be pressed to fill up all vacant Offices & to strengthen His Government.

If it should be thought necessary to send any Message by Lord Hertford, would it be adviseable to join Genl. Conway with Him; I know nothing of Genl. Conway; your Majesty can judge better than I can whether He may be trusted & whether He would add Weight to the Commission.

I have only to add that I pray most devotedly that your Majesty would not suffer the melancholy Prospect of your Affairs or the great Difficulties You have to encounter, to affect your Health, which is of such infinite Importance to your People & to all that are dear to your Majesty.

From your Majesty's Dutyfull Subject C. JENKINSON.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2896—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

St James' *Decr* 24 1779
Ten o'clock P M.

It is my Duty to transmit to Your Majty the Resolution of the Cabinet from which as Your Majty will see Lord Amherst dissented and gave His Reasons in writing. He did not disapprove the Plan proposed by Ld George Germain which was a plan of attack upon the Mosquito shore. on the contrary He commended it extremely and rested His objection upon the single ground stated in the Paper He has signed. However disagreeable it is to the Rest of Your Majestys Confidential Servants to come to any Resolution upon a Military Point with the weight of such an opinion against them, yet They could not hesitate upon this occasion, as they are persuaded of the Propriety of the Plan proposed, entertain great Hopes of its success and are convinced that a mere Defensive war must be highly prejudicial in the end, must soon waste the strength of this Country, and by exhausting all its Resources in fruitless Expence, lead by certain and unavoidable Consequence to a very disadvantageous Unequal Peace.

It was the wish of the Cabinet that I should immediately transmit the Resolution to Your Majesty that in case it meet with your approbation, no Time may be lost in carrying the Plan into Execution.

Enclosure.
Copy.

Minute of Cabinet.
at Ld Stormonts office *Decr* 24 1779

Present

Ld chancellor
Ld President
Ld Privy Seal
Ld Sandwich
Ld Hillsborough
Ld George Germain
Ld North
Ld amherst
Ld Stormont

agreed that *that* Minute of the Cabinet by which it was

resolved to be advisable to send Five thousand effective Men to the Leward Islands including one Regiment sent to Jamaica, be carried into Full and immediate execution.

agreed that it is also advisable to send a further Force of Three thousand effective Men to Jamaica to be employed in an expedition against the Spanish Dominions in South America.

agreed that this Force be sent under proper Convoy.

No. 2897—*The Lord Chancellor to the King.*

Printed. Donne II. 300.

December 25 1779.

The Commands, Your Majesty honoured me with, were sufficiently difficult and delicate. But the anxiety, with which I sat about to execute them, is much inhanced by observing, that I have had the misfortune to mislead Your Majesty into a wrong impression of some considerable Men. My Duty to your Majesty, and Justice to Them, call upon me to attempt a more accurate representation of those Passages, than I have yet had the good fortune to convey.

Your Majesty's Object undoubtedly was to form an Administration of the Wise, and Virtuous, and Respectable of all Parties, For which Purpose your Majesty was pleased to express a disposition to admit into your Service and Confidence any Men of publick Spirit and Talents, who would join with a Part of your present Ministry, in forming one upon a more enlarged Plan; providing withal, for every exertion to preserve the Empire entire, and to prosecute the war with vigour, and that your Majesty's past measures should be treated with proper respect. Such was the purport of the Paper, which Your Majesty was pleased to put into my Hands on the 17th of November.

According to the possible extent of this Proposition, All or Most of the Cabinet might have been removed, except perhaps the Negotiator of the Change. And I might have seemed to the Ministers removed, and perhaps to a great Part of the World, to have undermined Them in Concert with Their Successors. Such a Suspicion would certainly have been unjust; as I neither

knew nor undertook to answer for the publick or private views of opposition; but proceeded meerly on a doubt, whether there existed in the Ministry Strength enough to carry on Your Majesty's business in the actual situation of things. This Doubt I entertained in common with Lord Gower and Lord Weymouth, but knowing nothing of Lord North's opinion, Such a Suspicion might also have proved an Impediment to the progress of the business: I had the honour to be admitted twice to Your Majesty's presence on this subject, on Wednesday the 17th, and Thursday the 18th of November. On the Thursday I found that Lord North had informed Your Majesty, that He had mistaken my Ideas of the Strength of Administration; and, supposing that they turned chiefly upon the concurrence of Numbers in Parliament had undertaken to reconsider His prospect in that particular. I explained to Your Majesty, that the Strength of a Ministry, in my Notion, consisted, besides the credit and esteem of Parliament, in their Influence upon other parts of the Empire, and other great Bodies within the Kingdom, Their Authority over the Fleets, and armies, and other Branches of Executive government, together with many other obvious articles. However, not presuming to urge any opinion of mine, nor indeed wishing to do it without the Privity of Your Majesty's other Servants, I humbly proposed it to Your Majesty to call for all Their Opinions on this Point, whether there really existed in Ministry Strength enough to conduct the publick business with Dignity and Effect. And this Idea seemed to meet with Your Majestys approbation.

Thus the Matter rested till the 22nd of November; when Lord North communicated to Me His receit of Your Majesty's commands to inform Lord Bathurst and Lord Hillsborough of Your Majesty's gracious purpose to appoint the first President of the Council, and the other Secretary of State. From this circumstance I inferred, that Your Majesty meant to proceed no further on the Idea contained in the paper of the 17th of November: and, supposing that It would not be agreeable to leave that outstanding, I thought it My Duty to deliver it up to Your Majesty; which I did accordingly on the 23d of November.

on the 3d instant Your Majesty was pleased to replace the same paper in my hands, adding withal, that Lord North thought

it adviseable to make an attempt to form an Administration on a broader Basis; and that, in order to promote so desirable a measure, He did not wish to retain His present Office, or to make a Part of any new Ministry which might be formed. I humbly suggested to Your Majesty, that the Paper was somewhat indefinite; not specifying what part of the present Ministry was to be retained, or what number of others to be admitted; and that such questions would naturally occur to be asked, in answer to which only the Treasury could be offered, unless Your Majesty would condescend to specify what other offices might be made the subjects of arrangement. As Your Majesty did not think that course expedient, I further submitted, whether It might not be proper to drop the Idea of making a direct proposal on the part of Your Majesty in that undefined shape; and to try, whether in conversation with Me They would be willing to disclose any Ideas of Coalitions, which might be fit for Your Majesty to consider further, and shape into some more distinct proposal. Your Majesty gave me leave to pursue that method: and I took such opportunities as I could find to converse with Lord Camden Lord Shelburne and others; but still as a private Man, who wished a Coalition of Parties, and disclaiming all authority to make Proposals. They declined to enter into that sort of conversation about arrangements with Me; But They never imagined that They were returning an Answer to Your Majesty; so that if any Coldness or Disdain were shewn, which I really did not feel, It was directed solely to Me. It was indeed my conjecture, that They would think a fuller proposal more gracious; nay that They flattered Themselves with the expectation of a larger opening than I could observe to be in Your Majesty's contemplation; and even with that of being sent for. But They certainly did not presume to propose any of those things to Your Majesty.

Your Majesty's Commands of the 10th instant did not, as I conceived them, extend beyond those of the 3d. In both Lord North's situation was considered as disposeable; and in both It was put upon Them to explain the extent of Their Expectations: unless indeed It was Your Majesty's meaning to send a direct proposal in Your own name. Understanding that otherwise, I only took an opportunity, for my own satisfaction, to assure myself, that I had treated Lord North's situation as not likely

to stand in the way of a proper Coalition. If on Thursday the 16th I expressed myself to a different effect from that mentioned before, I have been so unlucky as to mislead Your Majesty.

Upon this occasion I think it was, that Your Majesty was pleased to inquire into the expediency of sending a Proposal directly, and in Your own name, offering Lord North's place, and expressing Your Majesty's desire to make a Coalition of the most respectable Men of all Parties, and calling for Their Ideas of the Opening which would amount to such a Coalition. Not being prepared for the sequel, I hesitated about the expediency of a measure, from which I could form so little hope. And I further submitted to Your Majesty, whether after my former conversations with them I should be the properest Bearer of such a Message.

This, according to my Memory of it, is the sum of what hath passed. From which It must appear, that No Proposal hath yet been made to any Part of Opposition; nor consequently any answer received from Them. They have a right to disavow my conjectures, and even to complain of Their being hazarded at all. Therefore, if it be thought expedient to hold out to the Publick, your Majesty's gracious disposition to admit into your Service and confidence the most Eminent of all Parties, It seems necessary to cause some direct offer of that sort to be made to Them. [*Unsigned.*]

Endorsed by the King. A copy in the King's handwriting.

No. 2898—*Lord George Germain to the King.*

Lord George Germain had the honor and satisfaction of reading your Majestys note to Lord Stormont approving the propos'd Attack upon the Musquito Shores. The difficulty of carrying this plan into Execution arises from the want of sufficient forces, as the new Levies are not yet Compleat and Three of the Regiments most fit for service are those Lord Amherst thinks your Majesty had destin'd for the defence of this Country. Lord George has the honor of submitting to your Majesty all that has pass'd upon the subject, and the best information he can procure of the new Corps, that your Majesty may judge if the offensive operation against Spain is of such

consequence as may induce your Majesty to employ the Three Compleat Regiments of St. Leger, Chewton and Harrington upon that service, or substitute in their place any other Battallions, if their going out of this Kingdom should be thought improper.

Pall Mall *Decemr.* 26*th* 1779 $\frac{m}{5}$ *pt.* 4. p.m.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2899—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

St. James's *Dec.* 27. 1779.

The Landgrave's Letter to your Majesty is so friendly that it seems to deserve an immediate answer. I have therefore prepared a Drt which is here submitted to yr Majesty. By the Landgrave's expression that He leaves his Troops at yr Majtys Disposal I hope He means that they shall be employed wherever you think fit as well in the West Indies as in North America. This is a Point wch it was particularly recommended to Genl. Fawcit to be attentive to, and which I hope will now meet with no Difficulty. Genl. Fawcit who purposely avoided taking Leave at Court is to set out tomorrow and may if yr Majesty thinks fit be the Bearer of yr Letter to the Landgrave. as Ld Amherst intimated to me the other day that there may perhaps be some arrangement taken for an Increase of the regular Force in Scotland I could have wished to defer the answer to Ld advocate but as I have learnt that some county Meetings are appointed to be held early in next Month it may perhaps be better tht the answer to Ld advocate should precede them

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2900—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

St. James's *Decr* 28. 1779
$\frac{m}{20}$ *p. two* pm.

In Consequence of your Majesty's observation upon the Landgraves probable Intentions I have made a slight alteration

in the Drt of the Letter. Instead of repeating His Words it seemed better to use a Loose indefinite expression. Genl Fawcit whom I spoke to upon the subject was clearly of that opinion.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2901—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

St James's *Decr* 31 1779.

Sr Joseph Yorkes Private Letter wch is here laid before Your Majesty seems to deserve particular attention. The business is of great Delicacy and Importance and cannot be too fully weighed. as it is of consequence to bring this Matter to a decided Point I will, if it has Your Majesty's approbation prepare a Drt of a Letter to C^{t} Walderen agreeably to Sr J Yorke's general Idea, and take the opinion of the Cabinet upon it at our first meeting.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2902—[?] *to the King.*

[? *December*, 1779.]

There is nothing very forbidding in Yorke's Answer—I have no fears of the Success of the idea, if the Ambassador is first talked with by Your Majesty; but there are many previous Steps to be arranged—pardon Me Sir for mentioning a very material one viz. the keeping Eden at home—When there was some chance of avoiding a Rupture at least for some time, I thought I wanted little assistance in the Detail of my Office. —But with the Infirmities I am liable to, I must under the present circumstances represent that I cannot do without a Secretary, and know of no person that I can feel Safe and Comfortable with but Eden. Pray Sir forgive the plain Openess with which I write—Besides Lord North may much want him —it would sound ridiculous if I was to say how much I think his presence essential at Home. But even what I have presumed to throw out need not stop Eden's going or impede the arrangement; as I should cut a very graceful figure tripping before

Your Majesty with the Steward's Staff if Your Majesty preferred that Change to my total Retreat

From the first I believed the best for Your Majesty's Service viz. Lord North Minister, and a proper person in very high Office to conduct the War with fair and full Support. This Person I cannot help thinking may be found in Sir Joseph Yorke.—His situation must be Secretary of State and one of the Old Offices—Whether the American Department is sunk or not. —For the mode of this Situation let me beg Your Majesty to occurr [*sic*] to my letter of Saturday last—No time should be lost in preparing to remove Yorke to the Seals by sending for him over—but I confide in Your Majesty's goodness that no steps shall be taken to open this Southern Department for him untill I have had the honour to discuss this Subject with Your Majesty more fully than I can in writing.

Copy in the King's handwriting.

No. 2903—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

Admiralty *Dec* 31*st.* 1779.

Lord Sandwich has the honour to send to your Majesty the dispatches recieved this morning from Sir Thomas Pye, relative to the proceedings of Captain Fieldings squadron. He allso encloses a paper of intelligence concerning the State of things at Brest which was brought to him yesterday morning by a person of very genteel appearance, who promises to continue to give every authentick information of what is going on in the French Ports. his story is that he is in close friendship with an officer in the French service who is an Irishman by birth, but tired of his situation, and a friend to this country. This officer is aid de camp to a French General now at St. Maloes & he was formerly aid de camp to the rebel General Conway in America. thro' this officer he proposes to get his intelligence, & what he has allready brought he says he procured by attending him to Brest, disguised as his servant, which place he left on the 12th instant.

Ld Sandwich doubted this persons intelligence which he conveyed to him in conversation, namely, that there was only

four or five of the Spanish Ships still remaining at Brest; but your Majesty will observe that the same thing is confirmed from another quarter.

Your Majesty will recieve allso a private letter from Mr. Robinson to Ld Sandwich, in answer to one he had written to him from Blackheath, in which he had very fully given his opinion with regard to Ld Norths situation, & to the certainty of his being able to carry on your Majesty's measures, as long as you think him deserving your protection. Lord Sandwich has not yet had the proposed interview with Mr. Robinson.

Lord Sandwich must give your Majesty the trouble of a sealed letter, as he is going to Blackheath & leaves the box with Mr Stephens till the supposed time of your return to the Queens house.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2904—*Draft Resolution.*

[? 1779.]

That an humble Address be presented to His Majesty, representing to His Royal Wisdom, that this House is deeply penetrated with the view of impending Ruin to the Kingdom from the continuation of an unnatural War against the British Colonies in America, and most humbly to advise His Majesty to take the most speedy & effectual Measures of putting a stop to such fatal Hostilities, upon the only just & solid Foundation, namely, the removal of accumulated Grievances; and to assure His Majesty that this House will enter on this great and necessary Work with Chearfulness and Dispatch, in order to open to His Majesty the only means of gaining the Affection of the British Colonies and of securing to Great Britain the commercial Advantages of these invaluable Possessions; fully persuaded that to heal and redress will be more congenial to the goodness and magnanimity of His Majesty, and more prevalent over the Hearts of freeborn Subjects, than the Rigors of Chastisement & horrors of Civil War, which hitherto have served only to sharpen resentments and consolidate Union, and if continued, must end in finally dissolving all Ties between Great Britain and the Colonies.

No. 2905.

A PLAN [? 1779.]

for reducing the Colonies in the most expeditious Manner and at the least expence

FACTS

1st. . . . Great Britain is already possessed of *Quebeck, Nova Scotia, Rhode Island, Long Island, New York, Staten Island* and the *Floridas*,[1] and were the Peninsula of New Jersey and that between the Delaware and Chesapeak added, she would be in the possession of the Sea Coast of all North America, with a Tract of Inland Country capable of supplying her ffleet and Army with every necessary, save Military Stores. These possessions would not only enable her to save the Expence of Transporting over Sea a great part of the Supplies but to command by a few ffrigates only, all the Seaports and Harbours, the avenues of the Rebel fforeign supplies, from Rhode Island to North Carolina ; and enable Government to apply a great part of the Naval fforce in America to other services.

2d. . . . The Colonies of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware Counties, Maryland, Virginia, North and South Carolina are by far the most valuable and important to Great Britain. It is from thence she procures Skins and ffurs, Tobacco, Wheat, Flour, Indigo, Rice, Tar, Pitch, Turpentine and Iron. it is also from thence the Eastern Colonies obtain provisions, such as wheat, and fflour, without which they could not subsist and carry on their Commerce or maintain an Army.

3d. . . . The Middle and Southern Colonies are by far the weakest in Military fforce, and of Course the easiest to conquer. In four of them the Labouring Sort of People from whence the Soldiery can only be procured is chiefly composed of Negroes, whom the New States Justly esteem so many intestine enemies, and therefore will not Trust them in Arms. And in the other four the people in general are better affected towards Government than in any of the rest of the Colonies. Besides in These the Militia's are new and undisciplined, and not being inured to Military Discipline as in the Eastern they are prevailed on to

[1] Note. These Possessions would also cut off all possibility of the five Middle Colonies of N. York, N. Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland & Virginia from procuring any foreign Supplies.

turn out with more Difficulty, and are much less expert in the ffield.

4th. . . . From the Attachment of the People in General of the Middle Colonies many insurrections in favour of Government have taken place, as well as from the excessive Tyranny and Oppression of the New States, which exceeds by far those of the Eastern Colonies, and it is known in America that the Rebel Army has been formed, and recruited from Time to Time, more by the English Scotch and Irish emigrants, than the Natives of America many of the latter Submitting to the most enormous ffines and even imprisonment rather than enlist in the rebel Service.

5th. . . . The Middle Colonies are more accessible in every part by Water up their numerous Rivers which afford the best Navigation and are very defenceless. Their vessels of fforce and Merchant Men, and of Course their Trade may be destroyed, and their fforeign Supplies effectually cut off by a small Force, and the Country may more easily be penetrated by Land than the Eastern ; not only for the Reasons before mentioned but because they have no Stone roads and ffences and the Ground not so mountainous and Strong.

6. . . . The Eastern Governments are more Numerous and very few Slaves. Their Inhabitants live more compact and thicker Settled, and are more disaffected and may be, easier and in much less time, collected in opposition to the British fforce.

7. . . . The Eastern Colonies have never yet been able to Supply the Rebel Army with Provisions, carriages and other Necessaries for any length of Time. At the White Plains and New York in 1776 all their carriages and Provisions &c were drawn from New Jersey and Pennsylvania ; and in 1778 they were procured from the same places Maryland and Virginia, and sent even to Rhode Island during the Siege ; nor could the Eastern Governments supply the ffrench ffleet at Boston in all the Country East of the North River, but were obliged to Transport a great part of the fflour from the Middle colonies.

8th. . . . If the Middle Colonies, which may be Justly considered as the Heart of America, as it is from thence every thing necessary for any army is drawn, be once reduced to the peace of the Crown, which, it appears from the foregoing ffacts, may be done in less time and at less expence of Blood and Treasure

than the Eastern, the two extremes the Southern and Eastern Governments must fall of Course. Because by the possession of the former all manner of connection and intercourse between the latter must be destroyed, the union of force of the Confederacy be entirely Broken and their only resource for the Supply of an Army with Provisions be lost.

9. . . . The Indians are from Interest the faithful Allies of Great Britain and the Natural Enemies of the Americans, whose rapid Settlements made in their Country and the late proofs the latter have given of a determined Resolution to disregard the Royal proclamation by their Encroachments upon the Lands over the Ohio, have convinced the Natives that Success in the present contest on the part of the Americans must Terminate in their utter extirpation. A diminution of the Number of the Americans and a repulsion of them towards the Sea Coast is their true Interest. Besides these unhappy people yet retain a reliance on the protection of the Crown. Under this Confidence and upon these principles they have with great firmness refused, th'o warmly and repeatedly Solicited, to take up Arms for, or to Join with, the American Confederacy, and adhered faithfully to their Alliance with the Crown, and Many of them are ready to Cooperate in reducing the Colonies to their former Obedience.

10. . . . The Rebel Army has diminished every Campaign since the war owing to a failure in their resources of Men arising from two principal causes, the numbers of Men lost in the ffield and the increasing disaffection of the Country. In the Year 1776, when an enthusiastic Spirit for Liberty prevailed, and the people were under the Strongest Delusions the congress sent into the ffield upwards of 30,000 Men, giving but very small Bounties. In 1777 alth'o the congress resolved to raise 87000, yet with all their Exertions and those of the new States, who became now more firmly established in their power, and by extravagant Bounties and excessive ffines they were not able to fform two armies of Regulars acting in Different parts to the amount of more than 16,000. In 1778 by still more severe fines and extravagant Bounties they have not procured Sufficient to make up their Number of Regulars more than 12000. In November 1776 by the Battles on Long Island and the white plains and the March of the British Army to Trentown the Grand and only Army of the Rebels was reduced to 3300 and its whole fforce

while at Morris Town in New Jersey during the winter did not amount to 6000 with the addition of the Jersey Militia, and some times much less; and when Washington Passed thr'o Philadelphia in August 1777 he had but 9500. 2500 after join'd him from the Eastward, with which and all the Militia he could procure from New Jersey Pennsylvania Maryland and Virginia and the Delaware Counties, he could not Muster at the Battle of Brandywine more than 15000 effective Men. and in the winter while they lay at the Valley Forge, this Number was reduced to less than 4000 effective men.

11. . . . The meer penetrating into a Country with a Military Force, and afterwards retiring from it before a new establishment of Defence is fformed in it, never yet finally Conquered it. as soon as it is deserted the disaffected in it will again unite in force and resume their power over it. This was the late case of New Jersey. The Military or so many of them as may be necessary must stay to retain it or a new Establishment of power must be formed within it for that purpose. One of these measures ever has been and must be adopted in the final and permanent Conquest of any Country.

12. . . . It is certainly wise policy in the attempt to conquer any country especially one so extended as America and void of Garrison; and when a Military force cannot be spared by the invaders to defend them, to make use of the force within it if not to conquer to retain it, if such Force, well affected, may be found. Because by this Means every province or District or Territory may be secured and protected and the Main Army without much Diminution spared, to reduce the principal fforce of the Enemy and proceed in its other Conquests—Indeed no country can with propriety be said to be effectually conquered untill a Military fforce necessary to Defend it and a Civil establishment to preserve its internal Peace be established within it.

UPON the foregoing Facts & principles it is

PROPOSED

1st

THAT the Middle Colonies be the first and Great object of the Military Operations and Conquest. Because they are the

most important, the weakest in regard to Military fforce, the best affected to Government, the Source from whence the Enemy Draw all their Supplies of provisions, and more capable of ffurnishing those supplies to the British Army than any of the others ; and because by a firm possession of them or any two of them the Union of the force of the Confederacy will be broke and the power of the other Colonies to maintain an Army Destroyed.

2d

That there be an Army of ten or twelve thousand Men as lightly accouter'd as possible to carry with them no more Baggage and Artillery than is absolutely Necessary. More than this Number of men cannot operate in america at one time in one place and this Number ever has been and will continue to be, considering the Difference in the Discipline of the British and American Troops, superior to any fforce the Americans have been, since the first Campaign, or will be able to collect, and the immense Baggage &c has been the Bane of the British Operations, and are not only unnecessary in a Country full of Provisions but a great Obstruction to sudden and Quick Movements and pursuits, without which nothing can ever be done with an Enemy as lightly accoutred as possible and who perhaps never means to come to a decisive Action if they can avoid it.

With this Army Open the Campaign as early as possible in the Spring, At this Season the Enemy ever has been and will be the weakest. They cannot collect their force from the Distant Colonies to recruit their Army untill the Begining of Summer, and their Army ever has been wasted by Sickness, hard Duty and Desertion at the end and in the winter after, every Campaign, Let this Army enter the Colony intended to be reduced and if the enemy be there, as he undoubtedly will give him Battle and pursue a victory with the light Troops untill he is either effectually Destroyed or drove out of the Colony. This done do not Desert the Colony. The whole Army should remain in it if Necessary untill it is done. But this will scarsely ever be the case. A few Troops to assist the Governor in performing the Duties pointed out in the next proposal will only be necessary.—The Deserting a colony once entered before it is effectually reduced, the officers both Civil and Military Seized, the disaffected disarmed, the powers of the New Government finally destroyed, and the

Authority of the Crown firmly Established for the Protection of the People, is doing nothing and worse than Nothing. It gives the Rebel State an opertunity of Recovering itself, of Collecting again its fforce and leading it to Action. It encourages the disaffected and throws the well affected into Despondency.

3°

In order to execute what is recommended in the last proposal. Let a Governor be appointed vested with all the powers of Government Civil and Military with Orders to enter the province with the Army, having to attend and Assist him and under his sole command a party of the Military. 800 or 1000 men will be sufficient in any of the Middle or Southern Colonies while the Main Army of the Rebels is opposed by the British. Upon his first entry into the Colony he should issue a proclamation, inviting and declaring it lawful for all his Majestys well affected Subjects to take up arms and to join & assist him in Seizing upon and Bringing in the officers of the New States, and Disarming the disaffected to Government, with a reward offered for the apprehending the most important and Mischevious among them. A pardon should be promised to all the disaffected who should bring in their Arms and submit to the Crown, with or without exceptions, as prudence and reason shall dictate, with a declaration that all those who should decline to do so should be considered as Guilty of High Treason and treated accordingly. The proclamation should also contain an assurance that the province should not be deserted nor the friends to Government left without Protection until the Colony be fully secured and restored to Order and the Peace of the Crown. The desertion of New Jersey and Pennsylvania and the great number of Friends to Government, who were active in its behalf, and fell a cruel sacrafice to their Enemies, renders this assurance absolutely Necessary to recover their lost confidence.

With the beforementioned party of Regulars and the Great Number of the well affected to Government who now grown tired of, and Desperate under, the intolerable Tyranny of the New States will join them, the Powers of the New States would be soon destroyed, the officers Seized the Peace of the Crown restored and the Colony put into a proper and secure state of Defence against every thing but the enemies Main Army.

More effectually to quiet the Minds of the people and to reconcile them to the Crown, another proclamation should be Issued by the Governor containing a plan of the intended civil Government, or at least the General principles thereof founded in all respects on those principles of ffreedom which form the Basis of the British Government. This is what all the well affected Gentlemen of weight and influence in the Colonies wish for and expect; and if done it will induce them with Chearfulness and ffirmness to exert their influence in favour of Government, and that establishment which will be so much to be preferred to the one under which they now suffer every Species of Oppression.

4.

To Aid and facilitate the foregoing Operations, to keep the Militias in the Eastern Colonies at home and make a Deversion in favour of the Main Design, A Corps of Troops from two to 4000 [as] shall be thought most expedient, in Transports under the Convoy of a few Frigates should be employed in making continual Descents on the new England Coasts, seizing or destroying their ships of war and Merchantmen in their Harbours, and reducing their Seaport Towns, taking Hostages for their Future good Conduct. The Destruction of their Naval Force and Trade with their Seaport Towns in case they should not submit to Government will prevent their sending assistance to the Middle colonies, keep their Militia in constant alarm and at Home, and contribute greatly to make them tired of the War, if not induce them to Submit in the end to the British Government.

Another party of 1000 men under the Conduct of the Vigilant Man of War, one ffrigate and two or three Gallies can with ease penetrate into the Heart of Virginia and Maryland, up all their Rivers and Bays which are for the most part without Defence of any Consequence and destroy every Vessel either Building or fit for Sea Seize on their Towns and take Hostages for their Submission to Government.

5.

Besides the beforementioned Measures, another of the first Consequence to the easy and expeditious reduction of the Colonies should accompany them, which altogether would render

it impossible for them in their present reduced State, to hold out more than one Campaign, Provided they are not too late in the Execution and care be taken that they are carried into execution at the same time.

Let Belts of Wampum with proper Messages be immediately sent to all the Western and Northern Indians, assuring them of his Majestys protection and firm Adherence to the Treaties Subsisting between them, and more especially that of 1768 respecting the establishment of their Boundaries; that every encroachment on their Lands shall be given up and inviting them to ffurnish a number of ffighting Men to Act with a few of the British Troops, under the Command of British Officers against the Frontiers of the Middle Colonies, while the Main Army is Operating in their internal Parts, in the same manner as was done under Col: Buttler and Cap^{n} Brent in the last Summer

It is conceived and indeed it is the Opinion of all Men of Sense in America who are ffriends to the British Government with whom I have conversed that the Spirits of the Colonists, already worn down by the Distress of War and the Oppression of the New States, could not withstand such Attacks from every quarter but would soon Submit to the British Government.

No. 2906—*The King to Lord North.*

QUEENS HOUSE 27th 1779 [*sic*].

$\frac{m}{25.}$ *pt.* 9. AM.

It is very unpleasant to be detained untill so late an hour as Lord North was yesterday in the House of Commons, and by the conclusion to find the sole object intended by Opposition was to declaim; I scarcely remember an instance of so long a Debate and no Division.

No. 2907—*Lord Weymouth to the King.*

[? 1779.]

The annex'd extraordinary paper has been just deliver'd to me by the French Ambassador, without accompanying it with any Speech or Comment. I have immediately sent summonses

to Your Majesty's confidential Servants to meet this Evening at my Office.

$\frac{m}{30}$ *past four* P.M.

No. 2908—*Lord North to the King.*

[? 1779.]

Sir—I have the honour of inclosing, for your Majesty's perusal, a letter I have received today from Mr Talbot, a Roman Catholick gentleman of fortune in Ireland a distant relation, I believe, of Lord Shrewsbury, a man of a fair character and who has the appearance of being ~~a~~ modest, sensible & dispassionate. In the course of last year, He sent to me a letter from the same person who wrote the inclosed, giving intimations of the approaching junction of the Spaniards, thinking that a peace might be concluded upon the condition of admitting the independence of America. The letters of Mr Talbot's correspondent always speak of the War as a Lawsuit, and gave an intimation of the interference of Spain under the expression of *filing a Cross Bill* Since the Spanish Declaration I lost sight of Mr Talbot & his friend till about six weeks ago when the former brought me another letter conveying the possibility of a peace but upon worse terms than before. I express'd much distrust in the French ministers, and gave such an answer as I thought would prevent my hearing from Mr Talbot any more, but my answer has now produced another letter more explicit than any of the former & which Mr de Clonard has sign'd. All his former letters were without any signature at all, & I suppose that by Setting his name to this, he means to give it greater authority. Your Majesty will easily understand the allusions in the letter, & what the writer means by the *Lawsuit*, the *thirteen* acres of Wood, & the Castle of *Terry currig*. Whatever I may think of this overture, It is so direct, precise, & important, & comes from a person so closely united with the French Ministry, & particularly with Mr. De Sartine, that I think it right to lay it immediately before your Majesty & to communicate it to the Cabinet, when your Majesty shall have perused it. I have the honour to be, with the most dutiful attachment, Your Majesty's Most faithful & devoted Servant & subject North.

No. 2909—*Lord North to the King.*

[1779 ?]

Lord North has the honour, in the absence of Lord Amherst, to transmit to his Majesty an offer of a regiment to be raised in Great Britain for home service which has just been put into his hands by Lord Fauconberg & Mr. Dundas.

They are going down to Yorkshire & wish to know whether such a regiment will be acceptable to his Majesty.

Lord North believes that there can be no doubt of the regiment's being speedily raised if accepted.

as there will be a meeting in the North Riding of Yorkshire in a few days, Lord North believes that it will be of great consequence to Lord Fauconberg & Mr. Dundas to receive his Majesty's pleasure soon. &, therefore, has undertaken in Lord Amhersts absence to send the proposal to his Majesty.

Downing Street *Saturday morng.*

No. 2910—*Memorandum.*

[In the King's handwriting.]

[1779.]

In the present Important moment of concern, it is impossible to keep thoughts in total silence, I never allow myself to form plans in my Imagination for Exertion and Enterprize upon the Enemy, without continually meeting a compleat check or stop, from the want of the force both of Land and Sea, that is Employed in North America, but I will interfere as little as possible with that great question. It seems decided ; yet I may be permitted to say the Great Land force as well as Sea force in that part, the number of Transports, of Victuallers, of Ordnance Ships and other Store Ships, Employ the largest Stock of Seamen belonging to this Country, and therefore till I can see my way in this great consideration, I must be rather silent, and content myself with the hopes, though not the certainty of being able to face the French wherever they may suddenly shew themselves ; for which purpose, My first consideration and proposition would be supposing the Great Fleet tolerably strong, to form a plan and in great haste for a Fleet of Frigates, Cutters, and Small craft of every Sort, to be able to disappoint the French

in the Attempts they may make to Land upon the Coasts of England and Ireland; Land Force will be wanted to receive and check bodies of the Enemies Troops, that may escape the vigilance of the English Fleets, As indeed there are many circumstances and probable situations that may render the Fleet of resistance unable to stop that of the Enemies, And now in regard to the great Fleet, the consideration of its being the Bulwark and real safety of these dominions, I cannot but think, that in every view of it it should be *preserved in force* superior to the Enemies if possible, and depend upon good intelligence for adopting *any Seperation* of it, should the Enemy send a large detachment of its Fleet to either West or East Indies, the same force may be instantly sent from this Country, but till that is clearly understood, sending any considerable detachment from home can have little other effect than weakening our Force, and yet remaining insufficiently strong abroad to resist the Enemy, what is to be apprehended by it, is that the Enemy will be able to beat and disperse such inferiority as four or five Ships would be (that is admitting that they get out unobserved) and being so successful, the Additional force sent of four or five Ships to strengthen the others, might be defeated in their turn, those they expected to join having met that fate before them, some means and exertions must be thought of, to raise 8 or 9000. men for the Fleet, if the services can be carried on without disgrace, to the period of such a recruit of men, the face and appearances of things would much change, but in the present moment I must repeat, that it would be unwise to separate the great Fleet by detachment, such a measure might put the Sea force of England, in the exact state of that of the French, *divided* and left to the possibility of being cut off from joining, I am therefore firm in my opinion that detachment and Seperation is dangerous and risks too much if the Spaniards join the French Fleet from Toulon the Seige of Gibraltar may be their object, in that thought, all Sea Force to that place not compleatly adequate is thrown away (I don't mean that a risk, if supplies are necessary must not be run) if the destination of the Toulon Fleet can ever be Ascertained, Suppose West or East Indies, Equal force will of course be sent close upon them.

The length of time for the Great Fleet keeping the Sea is a matter of the utmost consequence to have in consideration.

No. 2911—List of the French Fleet.

[In the King's handwriting.]

Armée Navale [1779 ?].

Escadre Blanche

Vaisseaux	Canons	Commandants
La Bretagne	110.	Mr. d'Orvilliers
L'Auguste	84.	Rochechouart
Le Glorieux	74.	Beausset
L'Actif	74.	Barondins
Le Destin	74.	Despinouse
Le Scipion	74.	Cherisier
Le Zodiaque	74.	La Porte Vezin
Le St. Michel	74.	La Biochaye
Le Solitaire	74.	Monteclair
Le Triton	74.	La Clocheterre

Escadre Blanc

La Ville de Paris	104.	de Guichen
Le St. Esprit	80.	Ternay
Le Conquerant	74.	Monteil
La Victoire	74.	Albert St. Hipolite
Le Palmier	74.	Reals
Le Citoyen	74.	Nieul
L'Eveillé	64.	Balleroy
Le Prothée	64.	Coqueray
L'Indien	64.	La Grandiere
Le Bizarre	64.	St. Riveul

Escadre Blanche et Bleue

Le Neptune	80.	Hector
La Couronne	80.	La Touche Treville
La Bourgoyne	74.	des Marins
L'Intrepide	74.	Beaussier
Le Pluton	74.	Destouches
Le Bien Aimé	74.	d'Auberton

Vaisseaux		Canons	Commandants
L'Hercule	.....	74.	d'Amblimont
L'Alexandre	.....	64.	Tremignon
L'Actionnaire	.....	64.	Larehantel
Le Caton	.....	64.	Scillans

FREGATES

de la 1re Division.

Fregates.		Canons.	Commandants.
La Concorde	.....	32.	Mr. Cardaillac
La Medée	.....	32.	Kergariou
La Gloire	.....	32.	De Barc
Le Senegal	.....	16.	Cambise
Le Chasseur	.....	10.	La Villebouquet
L'Espiegle	.....	8.	.....

2d Division.

La Terpsicore	.....	32.	Lombart
La Sibille	.....	32.	Dufreté
La Gentille	.....	32.	Mingot
La Favorite	.....	12.	Kersaint
L'Helene	.....	12.	Mondiou

3me Division.

La Junon	.....	32.	Marigny
L'Inconstante	.....	32.	Ravenell
La Bellone	.....	32.	Gonidee
Le Henry	.....	18.	.....
La Curieuse	.....	12.	Norville

8 Brulots
3 Galiottes à Bombes.

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